

Strikers block supplies to firefighting soldiers

As the firemen's strike showed signs of hardening yesterday, a barracks at Bootle, Merseyside, was picketed with the aim of halting supplies to firefighting troops. At a Downing Street meeting with Mr Callaghan senior fire officers' leaders called for a conference of all parties to he dispute.

Union move today to dissuade pickets

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Senior Fire Brigades Union representatives are expected to move today to dissuade their striking members from obstructing troops carrying out fire duties.

There were signs that the strike was hardening yesterday as the union sent all TUC-affiliated unions an appeal for financial and "other forms" of support.

In Bootle on Merseyside a picket was mounted with the aim of stopping supplies to 100 soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, who had been newly transferred to fresh quarters from barracks that had been criticized for lack of amenities.

The PBU executive decided on Tuesday to exclude from its ranks to spread the dispute through other unions any tem to stop supplies of fuel to firefighting troops.

Mr Robert Roxburgh, PBU, Bootle branch secretary, said yesterday that the union's aim would be to make life as difficult as possible for the troops. He added: "We have joined corporation electricians and plumbers going in, and to turn away all routine jobs, including milk and water.

Major Graham Brown, commanding officer at the new base Trinity Road, said last night: "This is going to be the winter, we shall have to range for the necessary supplies to be brought in by 'tary vehicles."

Other officials of the PBU, who was been anxious not to state what it believes is needed public support for the men's case by hampering fighting troops, were in touch with the Merseyside strike committee.

Senior fire officers call for peace talks

Fred Emery
Editorial Writer

A proposal for a conference fire service pay, to be ended by government as well local authority employers, including firemen and non-striking fire officers, was being held arm's length by the Prime Minister last night.

The proposal was made during a meeting at 10 Downing Street yesterday between Mr Callaghan and the executive of the National Fire Officers' Association, the middle-ranking men who have not joined the men's strike.

But Mr Callaghan emphasized that there had to be something to discuss, and a productivity deal in prospect that

complied with the Government's pay guidelines.

The Prime Minister made it clear that he is not interested in "subterfuge or in phoney deals," an official statement from Downing Street said. Such a conference could be held only if the conditions could be met.

It was evident from Whitehall comment last night that no new deal was in sight and that, if one could have been found it would have been agreed long since.

The Prime Minister had his statement issued after his meeting with the fire officers' executive. It sounded that he wished to play down the officers' suggestion of a round table conference.

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October's strikes cost economy 950,000 lost days

Our Business News Staff
Nearly a million working days were lost through industrial stoppages in October, bringing the total for the first 10 months of the year to 7,415,000, more than two and half times as many as in the equivalent period last year.

Strikes in the car industry at British Oxygen were the main causes of lost work



Morecambe and Wise, by Nicholas Munro, find a place in an exhibition of sculpture in Regent's Park, London, opened yesterday.

28 journalists held as South Africans vote

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Nov 30

White South African voters went to the polls today to elect parliamentary and provincial representatives for the next five years. It was the country's seventeenth general election since the Act of Union in 1910.

After a slow start, largely due to bad weather in the Cape and Transvaal, voting was reported to be brisk in most parts of the country, particularly in key urban seats, where close results were expected.

In Transvaal one of the first people to vote was Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, who lives in the Kisia constituency in Pretoria. He and his wife, Mrs Annie Vorster, were welcomed by the student choir from Pretoria University, who sang a verse from Psalm 134.

Initial trends in Transvaal appeared to confirm opinion poll predictions that the ruling National Party was set for an overwhelming victory, but that the opposition Progressive Reform Party (PRP) was likely to pick up substantial numbers of new voters.

The New Republic Party (NRP) appeared to be trailing the Nationalists and Progressives in three-cornered fights. There was little support for the ultra-right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP).

In the East Rand town of Boksburg the country's oldest voter, Mr William Webber, who will be 100 next week, voted for the National Party for the first time in his life. He had previously been a committed supporter of the now defunct United Party (UP).

A heavy turn-out was reported in Natal, where the NP, PRP and NRP have been trying to win the votes of English-

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October's strikes cost economy 950,000 lost days

Disputes this year are lasting a good deal longer than last year. The number of workers involved in disputes this year has risen from 566,000 last year to 915,000, but because the average length of strike has increased, the total number of days lost has gone up much more.

The 950,000 days lost in

October are fewer than the 1,250,000 lost in September, but on present trends this year is likely to be three times as bad as last year. When 3,284,000 days were lost, it is most likely to see as many days lost through strikes as did 1971 (13,516), 1972 (12,946) or 1974 (14,753). The nearest comparable year is probably 1970, when 10,983 days were lost.

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Refugees can stay

The Australian Government has rejected a demand by Vietnamese that it should return 181 people on board a hijacked trawler which has arrived in Darwin. Several hundred refugees have landed in Australia recently, but this is the first diplomatic wrangle.

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Children on drugs

Tens of thousands of schoolchildren are being put on long-term drug therapy because their behaviour does not fit in with their school's requirements, according to a sociology lecturer. The allegation is disputed by the Department of Health. Page 5

Steelmen's union rejects 6p offer

A British Steel Corporation offer of 6 per cent for production workers was rejected by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, which called a demand for 10 per cent plus 1 per cent consolidation.

Pay onslaught, page 2

Shadow on Verona

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and Signor Andreotti, the Italian Prime Minister, meet in Verona today. The Kappeler affair casts a shadow over the meeting. The Italian press yesterday commented on the former SS colonel being "protected like a minister" in Germany

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Railways: The case for further main-line electrification is to be considered by the Government and British Rail 4

United States: Abortion debate holds up pay for 240,000 government staff 7

Nigeria: A 16-page Special Report

President Carter welcomes Sadat peace initiative and announces his representative for Cairo talks

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Nov 30

President Carter today officially warmly welcomed President Sadat's recent move towards peace in the Middle East and formally announced that the American representative at the Cairo preparatory talks will be Mr Alfred Atherton, Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern affairs.

Mr Carter said that Mr Sadat's visit to Jerusalem was "a historic breakthrough", showing great courage, and was a "tremendous accomplishment". He said that it met two of Israel's deepest ambitions: the desire for face to face negotiations with the Arabs and the demand that the Arabs should recognize Israel.

The President, who was giving a press conference, was asked whether the hostility shown by Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization did not make a separate peace between Israel and Egypt likely. He replied: "We and Egypt and Israel have all taken the position publicly, and the same position privately among ourselves, that a separate peace agreement between Egypt and Israel to the exclusion of other parties was not desirable."

"This is predicated upon the very viable hope that a comprehensive settlement can be reached among the parties involved. If at some later date it becomes obvious that Jordan does not want peace, or that Syria does not want peace, or that Lebanon does not want peace, in a settlement with Israel, then an alternative might have to be pursued. But we have not certainly not reached that point yet."

"I think that the other Arab leaders do want peace with Israel. I am certainly not even considering, and neither is Sadat nor Begin, any assumption



Mr Alfred Atherton: US Cairo delegate.

tion that the possibilities have narrowed down to those two nations", Mr Carter said.

Later in the conference the President said that he had urged all other Arabs to support Sadat in his initiatives. There was no doubt in his mind that President Assad of Syria had been rejected by Israel. He said that it was sometimes difficult for Arab leaders to convey their points of view directly.

He also said that if there were a breakthrough in the future, for example if King Hussein were to negotiate directly with Israel, then the United States would support it enthusiastically.

Moscow: The Soviet Union appears to have retained Syrian support for efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement, despite attempts by radical Arab states to incorporate Damascus in a "rejectionist" front.

A statement issued after talks between President Brezhnev

and Mr Khadam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, said the two countries had "a mutual view" on how a just and lasting peace should be established in the Middle East.

The statement also contained implicit criticism of both Egypt for its direct negotiations with Israel and of Arab radicals for their outright opposition to any peace discussions and particularly to the long-suspended Geneva conference. —Reuters.

Patricia Cleugh writes from Bonn: Mr Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, said here that Israel was prepared to negotiate a separate peace treaty with Egypt and with other Arab countries.

Israel would prefer to see all the Arab countries participating in the Cairo talks, he told a press conference here. But he added, if the Syrians and Jordanians did not go to Cairo "I think it would be better to deal with the Egyptians rather than not have any contact at all."

Moshe Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv: Israel has rejected a proposal by Dr Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, for a conference in New York of parties to the Middle East dispute.

Officials said privately that Dr Waldheim's suggestion appeared to have been directed by Moscow and to be serving Syria, the PLO and others attempting to undermine President Sadat's peace initiative.

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem issued a statement supporting the idea of direct talks such as those conducted in Jerusalem between Mr Sadat and Mr Begin and those to be held in Cairo. The Geneva peace conference could be resumed after the Cairo talks and there was no need for additional preparatory meetings, it said.

Arab developments, page 6

Jane Austen comedy rescued from oblivion

By Philip Howard

Scene the First
Enter Mrs Reeves and the Milliners at different doors.

Mrs Reeves: So, you have brought the dresses, have you?

Milliner: I have brought the second Lady's dress, and Miss... come you men depend upon having yours this evening.

Does the style of that quiet opening in a vanished world of visiting milliners and English gentility ring a bell? It ought to, for it comes from the pen of Jane Austen.

The manuscript of a previously unknown play by the mistress of genteel English humour and exquisite characterisation has been discovered. Entitled Sir Charles Grandison, or The Happy Man, a Comedy, it is a very free adaptation of the episodic novel by Samuel Richardson, which Jane greatly admired and often parodied and referred to.

It has the characteristic (the only?) plot of Jane's genius: the good old one about true hearts smothered by misunderstandings, flaws of character, or other obligations but finally and satisfactorily united in a happy ending.

The National Theatre may not lead a stampede of West End managers to produce Jane's play. It is an unfashionable period piece, with no violence or explicit sex, though a deal about true love.

She almost certainly wrote it for the family theatricals she took part in, and fictionalized enchantingly in Mansfield Park: a specimen of the kind of transitory amusement which Jane was continually supplying to the family party. It is a considerable literary importance.

The manuscript consists of 53 small sheets of paper of three different sizes pinned together in three gatherings. The size and irregularity of the paper provide a fine example of Jane's frugality in writing upon small sheets, which could easily be put away, or covered with a piece of blotting paper.

The development of Jane's fair skating hand can be dated in about 1800. The watermarks of 1796 and 1799 concur with that date. That is the period in which she was writing Pride and Prejudice, Northanger Abbey, and Sense and Sensibility.

The manuscript is the property of Jane's great-nephew. Until recently they supposed it to be the work of Jane's niece, Anna Lefroy, who was probably responsible for the pagination, the addition of the incorrect number of acts in pencil to the title of the play, and some other revision in a childish hand.

The lost treasure has been rescued from oblivion. At last, in spite of tribulation and obligation, the beautiful and accomplished Harriet Byron gets her man, Sir Charles Grandison, a gentleman of high character and fine appearance. The curtain falls, as it once did in those happy far-off family theatricals, on their engagement.

Their play will now go the way of the world to the auction rooms of Sotheby's on December 13. The monetary experts believe that it will fetch about £15,000. But the literary and historic value of Jane's little play cannot be valued in pounds or dollars.

BBC annual report, page 4

European radio to be given a trial run

By Kenneth Gosling

Agreement has been reached in Brussels for a European radio service to be given a "trial run" in the period up to the direct elections to the European Parliament.

That was announced yesterday by Mr Gerard Mansell, managing director, external broadcasting, BBC, who said it would operate for not less than four months.

It is proposed that there should be a daily 30-minute programme in as many of the European languages as possible.

The BBC took the initiative in suggesting a genuinely European radio service of news and current affairs, initially to be broadcast in French, German and English, soon after Britain's membership of the EEC was confirmed.

Later discussion with a number of European broadcasting authorities revealed encouraging support for the idea. Technical and financial feasibility studies are still in progress.

BBC annual report, page 4

Now Air France offer more seats to Strasbourg.

With the introduction of the Fokker Fellowship F28 jet, Air France offer more seats to Strasbourg than ever before.

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Joy, is it?

HOME NEWS

Council workers to lead new onslaught on 10% pay guideline

By Paul Rourledge
Labour Editor

The Government is facing a renewed onslaught on its income policy from unions in the public sector, and the TUC is to take up the striking firemen's plea for help.

That twin threat to wage after local authority union leaders had failed to agree on adds 10.7 per cent to the pay bill. They are asking the employers, the same as those caught up in the firemen's strike for talks on an improved deal.

Miners' leaders are to meet the National Coal Board this morning for the first round of talks on their claim for rises from November 1 or about 90 per cent to give face workers £135 a week, having rejected the NCB's letter saying that they cannot have a rise until next March under the TUC's 12-month rule.

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation yesterday put its figures of 73,000 heavy steel workers in the state steel-making industry, which is suffering huge financial losses. There were also talks on the union's demands for more than 20,000 white-collar grades.

As the tempo of pay bargaining in the public sector quickens, Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said the Fire Brigades Union request for assistance had been received and would go through the procedures normally followed in such cases.

That is likely to be considered by the TUC's "inner cabinet", its finance and general purposes committee, which may be called in a special session to progress the firemen's appeal. Mr Alan Fisher, a member of the committee and general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) said last night that the TUC might seek

Fatal fire is tackled by Gurkha troops

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs
Correspondent

A man and two women died in fires at their homes yesterday. Another woman died after being rescued.

Mr James Larkins, aged 50, died in a fire at his home at Sandhurst, Berkshire, which was tackled by Gurkha soldiers. Flames prevented their reaching him. His mother, Mrs Sarah Larkins, aged 80, was rescued earlier by building workers.

Striking firemen at Bracknell left their picket lines to help, but the fire was under control when they arrived.

Mrs Isabel Reed, aged 61, a widow died in a fire at her home at Feltham, Tyne and Wear, despite attempts by two soldiers to rescue her.

Mrs Kim Crook, aged 29, of Clarence Street, Penzance, Cornwall, died in a fire at her home.

Mrs Annie Clay Parry, aged 54, was dead on arrival at hospital after being rescued by police officers from an upstairs room at her home at Middleton, Greater Manchester. Picketing firemen left their station at Heywood to help.

Five firemen, including two senior fire officers, were injured in a fire that wrecked an empty wing of a special school in Liverpool. One was believed to have broken his shoulder. The fire at Ingatestone School, Bicknacre, near Newhaven, was fought by retained firemen.

Families were moved out of 16 flats on the first four floors of Eastville Heights, a 22-storey block at Toxteth, Liverpool, when a fire broke out in an electricity substation feeder.

The Naafi is presenting games to the value of £5,000 to servicemen on stand by fire duties. Mr Edward MacGowan, managing director, said: "These men are our customers and they are doing a job of work they do not seek."

Lord Watkinson, president of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday urged the Government to stand firm on the firemen's strike. Speaking in Birmingham, he said the outcome was crucial to the great number of pay claims still in the pipeline.

He accepted that the firemen had a good case but insisted that it could be met only in the long-term. They should continue to talk about reduced hours and the possibility of productivity schemes because there was no way they could be allowed to bulldoze their claim, he said.

Christopher Walker writes from Belfast: The Army said yesterday that since the firemen began to use incendiary bombs, 26 incendiary bombs had been planted in business premises in Northern Ireland. A further 16 "blast incendiaries", cans of petrol attached to charges of explosive, and four other bombs of more conventional design had also been planted.

The Provisional IRA's fire-bombing campaign continued yesterday when four armed men used a mechanical digger to break down the doors of a large printing works near the centre of Belfast. They planted four bombs, two of which exploded soon after the staff had fled.

Striking firemen in Ulster intend to urge the national executive of their union to expel all members not backing the strike. That would affect about 400 part-time firemen.

Scots less heavy drinkers than the English suppose

By Alan Hamilton

The cherished English image of irreparable drunks has been exposed as an exaggerated and incorrect misconception. Only Scotland over the age of 30 has lower rates of alcohol consumption than their English counterparts; the rest are paragons of sobriety and good behaviour by comparison.

Research by the Christian Economic and Social Research Foundation, an English body, published today, shows that drunkenness among Scots youths is appreciably lower than in the same age group in England and Wales. But their elders make up for this abstemiousness with gusto so that the English image is, after all, overall: drunkenness is more common north of the border.

The findings are the distribution of 35 years of statistics on the incidence of convictions for drunkenness in courts throughout Great Britain, published as *The Differences Between Scottish Drunkenness And Drunkenness In England And Wales*. The differences are not great: it is simply a commoner in Scotland, which the report ascribes to a far more frequent repetition of excessive drinking by a small minority of first offenders in drunkenness.

"Objection to such comparisons is frequently made because it is said that what policemen regard as 'being drunk' is largely a variable and subjective value-judgement", the report notes. "This can well be the case, but broken windows and obnoxious behaviour are awkwardly factual whatever the police district or nationality."

Scottish women over 30 show an even higher incidence: the 1,420 convictions in 1975 being more than three times the English rate.

The fluctuation in the per capita consumption of spirits appears to exert the greatest single influence on the number of offences; this trend was less evident among women until alcohol became freely available in supermarkets, a point of sale "dominated by women and

Warnings to parents cover skateboards and plastic playthings Sturdy and simple toys make the best gifts

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs
Correspondent

The sort of toys most likely to make satisfactory Christmas presents are sturdy and well made, versatile enough to be used in different sorts of play and simple enough to allow children to use their imagination, according to the December issue of *Which?* magazine, published yesterday.

Which? kept track of the fate of children's Christmas presents in 70 families last year. Gifts that failed to arouse interest were often too young or too old for the child, while many plastic toys broke too easily. Parents complained about expensive but disappointing games packaged in smart boxes, and the influence of television advertising on children.

Lego and toys from the Fisher-Price range often came out well in members' reports.

Children should be given a say in choosing their skateboards, the magazine says, parents acknowledging that "engineering consultants". It advice is that plastic or solid wooden decks are best for beginners, and that the

board should have suspension allowing the board to move from side to side as well as up and down. It also found that children preferred boards with "kicktail" curves, helpful in performing such stunts as kick turns and wheelies.

In bicycles, however, the children did not necessarily like the flashiest models. "Many preferred bikes that were easy to pedal fast and easy to control," the magazine reports. The most popular with children, the Hughes Dart Squirt at £17, was not cheap, but *Which?* rates it "good but pricey" while nominating four other models "good value".

Striking a less seasonal note, Money *Which?* also published by the Consumers' Association, has been examining the costs of having children at all. It found that a typical couple would face a bill of £15,100 at today's prices if they decide to have a baby. Having two

children would cost them £23,800.

The figures take into account state contributions to the cost of raising a family. State education would cost £5,600 for each child over the years, and grants, benefits and tax reliefs take £3,100 off the bill for the first child and about £2,700 for the second.

To soften the blow, and help parents to feel they can still afford Christmas presents this year, Money *Which?* lists the main state benefits available to help to meet the cost of children.

There is no special provision, however, for cases like that of the three-year-old girl mentioned in *Which?* as having abandoned the toy rabbit, jigsaws, annuals, paintbox and Pop-a-point pencil given her last year among presents costing £21. Her verdict, quoted in the magazine, is: "Next Christmas, I want a gun."

Mistress finds home bare

By Annabel Ferriman

Miss Jennifer Davis, who won a legal battle on Monday to have her allegedly violent lover evicted from their flat, returned home yesterday to find it empty.

Mr Nehemiah Johnson had moved out in the morning and the furniture went with him. Miss Davis and her daughter, Cordelia, aged two, had to spend another night at the Chiswick refuge for battered wives, where they have been staying since October 3.

She hopes to move back into her £751 a week council flat today, if Hackney Borough Council can find her some furniture.

Miss Davis was given the right to the flat, on which she had a joint tenancy with her lover, when five judges of the Court of Appeal ruled on Monday by three to two that the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act, 1976, applied to unmarried as well as married women.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said social justice demanded that personal rights should take priority over property rights and that a woman had the right to live without fear in her home.

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Sheriff says authorities tried to scare him off

Sheriff Peter Thomson, the Scotsman judge who faces dismissal from office because of alleged political activities, said yesterday that the authorities had tried to frighten him off.

He also said in Glasgow that he intended to continue campaigning for Scotland's constitutional future.

Sheriff Thomson, aged 63, said he supposed there were ways in which he could have saved himself from the present situation, in which the Secretary of State was seeking his removal from office.

"I consider I am doing my duty," he said. "I think the wish of the authorities has been to frighten me off to stop. I think this is pretty clear. Let us say they were doing it for what they thought was my own good."

Sheriff Thomson said he hoped to be in a better position when they are", he said. "The worst that can happen to me is that I shall have to join the dole queue. The worst that can happen to them is that they will have to live with themselves, knowing that they have opened a gate."

"The could create a precedent for our future which none of us can foresee. It would be the same as the Government closing a newspaper for political activities."

The freedom of the press and the independence of the judiciary are cornerstones of our liberty. If one is breached, can the other be safe?"

Sheriff Thomson said the statutory instrument before Parliament was for his removal from office for political activities. The cause was a document called Scottish Plebiscite—report by Sheriff Peter Thomson.

He said: "The reason for this whole procedure must therefore be found within the four corners of this report. The matter must be decided on the report alone. The report is incomplete. Amending it before this order, which is before Parliament, could be confirmed, it would be necessary to find something partisan in the report. There is no such thing."

"I should consider it a great honour to be invited to address the House of Commons."

70m dangerous electric plugs in homes

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

More than 70 million potentially dangerous electric plugs are in use in homes in Britain, according to a survey published yesterday by the Electrical Research Association.

The association was commissioned to survey the condition of electric plugs in use. Of 1,503 plugs inspected, 432 (29 per cent) were faulty.

Some had large chips, leaving live terminals exposed; others were held together only by adhesive tape and the flex wires. The commonest deficiency was ineffective cord grips, straining the terminal connections and sometimes pulling them loose.

In 15 per cent of the sample households had wired the plugs incorrectly because they did not understand the colour coding.

Mr Johnson has said in intends to appeal to the House of Lords.

Representation in Commons of Ulster 'unjust'

Parliamentary representation should not be fixed solely by a formula based on the number of voters in a constituency, Mr Foot, Leader of the Commons, said yesterday. He opposed making the union's secretary today when he meets 107 journalists on strike at Darlington.

The strike, which affects the Northern Echo, the Evening Dispatch, the Darlington and Stockton Times, and the Durham Advertiser series has lasted nearly six months. None of the papers has been published for about four months since printing workers refused to cross NUJ picket lines.

Only printing workers belonging to the National Graphical Association are on strike at Darlington. Members of the National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants have returned to work. Bargaining has gone on between the NUJ and the printing unions, and Westminster Press has agreed to pay the union's secretary to sit on strike at the closed shop issue which is at the heart of the dispute.

Mrs Josephine Kirk Smith, the sub-editor whose refusal to join the union started the dispute, is continuing to work on emergency editions with other NUJ colleagues.

The prison system is at crisis point because of lack of agreement over what prisons are for and the conflicting wishes of the public, according to a document from the Roman Catholic Social Welfare Commission published today.

The tendency to demand stricter treatment and longer sentences in the name of deterrence may conflict with the goal of rehabilitation, the commission declares. "To regard the intention of prisons as merely to contain, even for the sake of protecting society, is to condemn the prison system to an almost impossible self-defeating task of accommodating more and more people for longer and longer."

The document admits that the commission's published statistics on young people are fraught with difficulty. It is not generally reliable, it says, because the lower tendency to be arrested for offences of Scottish youths, but fails to explain whether that is through fleetness of foot or a charitable police outlook.

But among adults, the Scots are clearly way out in front. Drug offences among men over 30 have risen steadily since 1956, until in 1975 they were four times above the English rate, with 9,856 convictions.

"It is an influence that goes on affecting the behaviour of Scotsmen as they grow older, generally after a generation," the report comments.

Scottish women over 30 show an even higher incidence: the 1,420 convictions in 1975 being more than three times the English rate.

Argentine police on duty during the World Cup next year, in which England is no longer competing, are likely to find the statistics borne out by the facts.



There was a distinct lack of bicycles about the place.

The students had packed their bags and gone home. By the time they returned, the college gardeners would be sweeping leaves.

It was a time for reflection, and as he crossed the quadrangle, Professor Marchant was beginning to wonder if he'd lost his touch.

Not long ago he could have counted on a packed house at the start of every lecture. Even for Milton.

But recently his students were turning up as much as a quarter of an hour late.

The professor glanced up at the clocktower as the hour was striking...eight, nine, ten. He looked at his Omega. Thirteen minutes past? Yes, thirteen minutes past.

No question about it.

Professor Marchant performed an adroit about-turn and hurried off to seek out Weelkes, the janitor.

HOME NEWS

Lord Todd answers critics of universities with reminder of their 'superb' aid to expansion

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Lord Todd, President of the Royal Society, suggested yesterday there were serious misunderstandings about the best way to encourage and harness scientific research in the United Kingdom.

He also said: "In these days of rampant egalitarianism our concern for an elite in science may be regarded by some as outmoded. But it is not. In science the best is infinitely more important than the second best: that is the belief of the society, and a country that ignores or forgets it does so at its peril."

Giving the anniversary address to the society, Lord Todd described the present as a "disappointing period" in British history. "Coming on a stream of oil from the North Sea does not conceal the fact that the white-hot technological revolution were were promised never came to pass and the pound in the pocket is far from being what it used to be", he said.

"In much of industry there has been so little profit for so long that some manufacturers are allowing plants to lay down and even skimping on the research and development that must surely be essential to any regeneration of British industry."

At a time of youth's unsatisfied aspirations for opportunity, of growing egalitarianism often coupled with a lowering of educational standards, those working in education, and especially in higher education, sensed irony in the contrast between the Government's enthusiastic launching of the Robbins expansion in 1963 and the present stagnation.

Some feared that our universities might be irreparably damaged as a result of the present crisis. He did not share their pessimism. British intellectual life remained as vigorous as ever. Scientific research was still flushed with success and full of promise. During the period 29 fellows of the society won Nobel Prizes, and had made outstanding contributions in many fields: radioastronomy, astrophysics, chemistry, neurophysiology, plant genetics and molecular biology.

But in the present economic gloom the cry went up: "What has all this country's expenditure produced?" Consequently politicians asked why a country in such economic straits should support academic research. Had not the time come when the universities should be harnessed to regeneration of the economy and research devoted to the needs of manufacturing industry: to making better transistors or cars or sewing machines?

"Such criticisms are based upon a profound misunder-

standing of what universities are for and on a failure to appreciate what they have done since the last war. It is too easily forgotten that between the forces and the Robbins report in 1963, government, industry and indeed the country at large, was crying out for more and more trained scientists and engineers.

Second was the advancing of the frontiers of knowledge. To fulfil that dual role, academic research must be essentially uncommitted. That was not to say that it should have no objective; all research must be committed to that extent; but it should not be dominated by short-term practical or economic reasons.

For that reason, he believed, proposals for joint industry-university PhD courses, or that universities should orient their research to meet specific industrial needs, were misguided.

Industry was the proper place for industrial research.

That did not belittle many contributions made incidentally by university departments to industrial research and development.

There is often talk of a gap between certain industries and the university departments of science and technology related to them. But to the extent that it is a gap of understanding which can be purged by closer personal contacts, it will not be closed by endeavouring to make university research departments do the job of industry or vice versa.

The universities clearly had to live with whatever level of research funding the Government could afford. But to do so effectively needed a selection and concentration on those centres where the greatest potential lay.

University research faced two main difficulties. First, there was growing obsolescence of equipment, owing in part to spreading money for research too thinly over too many places, not all of which were of standard that they should be.

Second, new universities had been created and the old had expanded so rapidly that they had consumed a large proportion of their own products to provide adequate staff.

A very large number of permanent university posts were thus created and filled by young men and women of often the same age group, of whom many were still in service ahead of retirement.

On top of that, the acute financial stringency experienced by the universities in recent years, coupled with an easing of the pressure on entries, had caused universities to restrict severely the filling of posts rendered vacant by retirement.

Such action, understandable from the university administrators' standpoint, had also blocked the way ahead for many of the bright young men and women now coming forward.

That state of affairs had in varying degree affected most faculties in the universities but its effects were especially dangerous in science. For those bright young scientists, although small in number, were the feed-corn for our future industries.

Although minor changes could be made, Lord Todd saw nothing fundamentally wrong with university training in science and technology for those who were to play a leading role in industry, and especially for those who were to provide the drive behind research and development.

Research in universities had a double function. One was a training role vital to the development of creative scientists and technologists which, although exercised primarily at the postgraduate level, also permeated the undergraduate level, also in its effect on teaching and on the liveliness of the staff.

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Mr Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, with stones from the old Blackfriars station preserved in the new.

Electrification of more BR main lines to be considered

By Michael Baily

Transport Correspondent

£217m and costs of £165m, should contribute £52m.

But cross-country services, with costs of £65m and revenue of £43m, are expected to fail by £26m to meet even their direct costs, and provincial city services, with costs of £43m and revenue of £30m, should fail by £13m. Total government support to British Rail passenger services this year is estimated at £356m.

Commuter difficulties: Mr Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, called yesterday for a public debate on the "deliberate serious issues" of South East commuter fares and services.

Defending the railways' decision to raise commuter fares by 16 per cent in January compared with 14 per cent for travellers generally, Mr Parker said that was where the costs arose, and common sense dictated a recognition of that reality.

The underuse of enormous assets, generally for only four hours a day, created special difficulties in London and the South-East, which could not be met by waving a magic wand.

It was a "very deep problem", which raised complicated issues and deserved more public discussion than it had received.

Speaking at the opening of a

£10m redevelopment of Blackfriars station, Mr Parker said the development land tax might frustrate further schemes such as that proposed for Liverpool Street.

The Government welcomes the select committee's view that the railways have an important future and that no big cuts should be made in the present system.

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Mr Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, with stones from the old Blackfriars

HOME NEWS

Schoolchildren 'put on drugs because class behaviour does not fit'By Mark Vaughan, of *The Times Educational Supplement*

Tens of thousands of children are being put on long-term programmes of drug therapy simply because their behaviour does not fit in with the requirements of their schools, according to an article in this week's issue of *Now School*.

Mr Steven Box, lecturer in sociology at Kent University, Canterbury, says there is a "scandalous silence" surrounding such "violence on schoolchildren". The reason for giving drugs to more and more children to control their behaviour is that they are diagnosed as "hyperactive", he adds.

However, he maintains there has so far been a complete failure by the medical world, or education authorities, to prove that hyperactivity is a genuine disease.

Last night the Department of Health and Social Security commented: "There are reports of abuse of dangerous prescribing of drugs in the way the article suggests is happening. 'Hyperactive' is not a term the department uses."

"School medical doctors do not prescribe drugs. They can be prescribed only by a general practitioner, hospital or in the case of mental health, a psychiatrist."

In his article Mr Box says treatment given to schoolchildren includes individual behaviour therapy, and in some cases brain surgery. But by far the most favoured method of treatment is drug therapy.

He says there is a whole industry in America based on drugging children to be submissive, with between 500,000 and a million children diagnosed as hyperactive. He argues that there are worrying signs that the same approach by teachers, education authorities and the medical world is being hounded in British classrooms.

Although hyperactivity is tooless well documented than Mr in America, there is a main underlying an epidemic of behavioural disorders among schoolchildren taking place, on a scale similar to that in the United States, though on a much smaller scale.

Mr Box notes that the Depart-

ment of Education and Science says that hyperactivity is an important symptom of maladjustment. In 1950, it says, 587 full-time pupils were classified as maladjusted. By 1970 the total was more than 5,000, and ten years ago was nearly 14,000.

The typical procedures for diagnosing hyperactivity are disturbing, Mr Box says, as they have nothing to do with disease, but everything to do with discipline.

Hyperactivity "violates important school norms about paying attention to teacher, obeying teacher, and being responsive to teacher's wishes, instructions or commands; not interfering with other children; answering teacher back or threatening teacher; physically assaulting teacher; not maintaining or damaging school property; being orderly and disciplined."

"American schools, particularly in poor Negro ghettos, and English schools in urban slums and ethnically mixed areas, are being transformed from places where children attended educational courses to places where they receive courses in medical treatment."

Mr Box says the drugs being administered to hyperactive schoolchildren are stimulants such as methylphenidate, dexamphetamine and magnesium pemoline. Only in a minority of cases are non-stimulants being given.

Since there is no physical sign of disease, he says, the favourite procedure is to look at a child's behaviour, in the classroom, in group participation and attitude toward authority. "Hyperactive" classroom behaviour includes, according to Mr Box, fidgeting, humming, making odd noises, or being easily distractible.

He argues that during high chronic unemployment many schoolchildren, particularly lower-class and ethnically underprivileged boys, "naturally cause problems".

The frustration and humiliation they experience show in delinquency, truancy, disobedience and other behaviour that upsets figures of authority, including parents and especially teachers. Drugs are then administered to dampen and confuse the child's scarcely heard protests."

New powers from today on violence by squatters

Important provisions of the Criminal Law Act 1977, take effect from today, including new powers over squatting and removal of the offence of conspiracy.

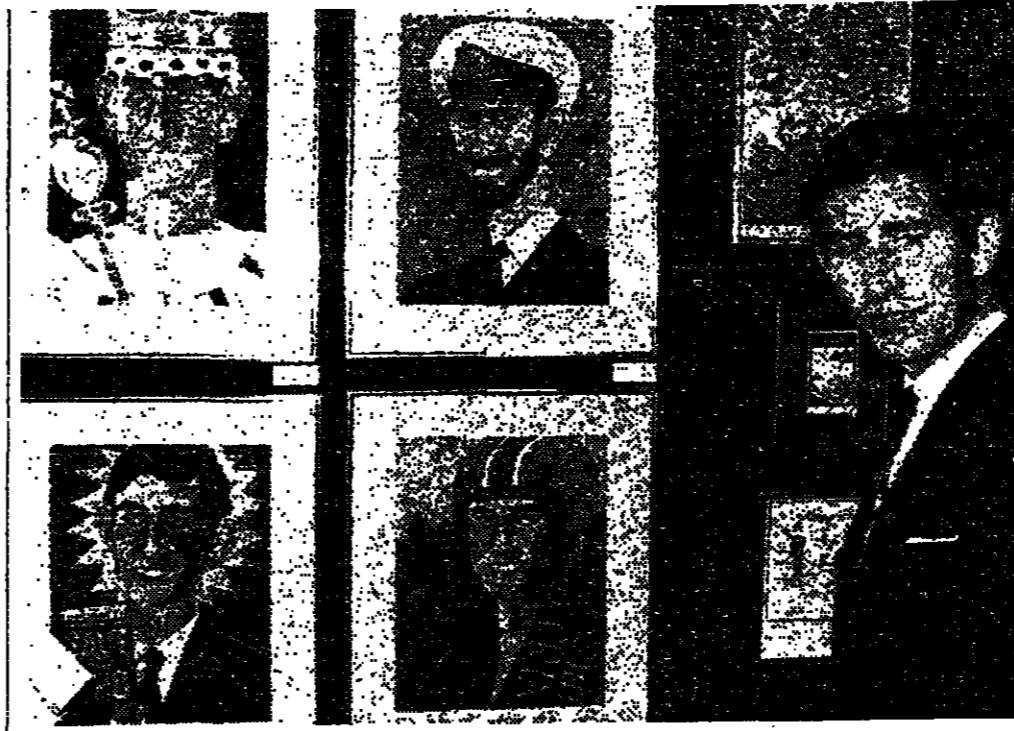
Part 1 of the Act means that the offence of conspiracy is restricted to agreements to commit criminal offences, and the penalty will be more closely linked to the penalty for the completed offence.

Part II replaces common law on such areas as forcible entry and detainer, where someone has entered peacefully but maintains possession by force. Five specific offences are created, including using or threatening violence to secure entry while another person is present, and failing to leave when required to do so by a displaced resident or protected occupying occupier.

The Campaign against a Criminal Trespass Law said that this legal change might threaten people taking part in work-ins or sit-ins, and a national scheme is being organized to keep a watch on the working of the new law.

Other provisions include extending the scope of the Obscene Publications Act, 1959, which means that the police can now deal with "blue" films used on film above 16mm in ordinary cinemas. In future members of the public will be unable to bring private prosecutions and the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions will be required before a prosecution can be taken.

In driving cases, the concept of "dangerous" driving or cycling is removed from the Road Traffic Act, 1972.



The Prince of Wales with four cartoons of himself by Barry Fantoni at the London Press Club's exhibition in aid of the jubilee appeal.

Inquiry into rate-support grantBy Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Cheshire County Council yesterday said that it would be unrealistic to expect the council to be able to hold to the average.

The county believed it would lose £2.5m grant for next year, the fifth year in which the non-metropolitan counties have had the overall grant reduced, although preliminary figures show that Cheshire is likely to lose much less in grant than other counties.

Already, local authorities particularly in county areas have said that it will be difficult to keep rates rises in the 10 per cent national average forecast by the Government.

18 by Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, the AMA held a seminar in London to discuss the matter.

Mr Jack Snare, chairman, congratulated Mr Shore for adopting the distribution formula that wanted, as far as possible, to favour the inner cities and areas with high levels of urban difficulties.

But he added: "A few authorities with urban deprivation problems did not benefit. We do not yet know why these anomalies occurred and we intend to discover how they happened."

Welsh language is in decline, report saysFrom Tim Jones
Cardiff

not loss from Gwynedd to the rest of Wales was more than outweighed by a net gain from England.

Dyfed also lost population to Wales and other parts of Britain but it is true that many people migrating from the Welsh-speaking areas, while English people move in to retire or set up small family businesses or merely to enjoy a better quality of unemployment, that disturbs people who are fighting for the language.

Mr Dafydd Williams, general secretary of the Society of Welsh Language, said yesterday: "So far as the Principality's concerned, the Welsh-speaking areas are declining. In the Vale of Glamorgan, for example, there are 10,000 people who speak Welsh but there are only 5,000 who can speak it fluently. In the Gower Peninsula, there are 10,000 people who speak Welsh but only 5,000 who can speak it fluently."

The report shows that the number of people who speak Welsh has declined by almost 40 per cent over the 50 years 1921-71. Now the language is at the crossroads, for only 51 per cent of the Principality's 2,766,000 were able to speak Welsh in 1971.

The great rural counties of Gwynedd and Dyfed, which span the whole of west Wales, remain a stronghold of the language, but the situation is not encouraging. Evidence shows that the apparent strength of the language in those areas is due more to the outward migration of young people leaving the area than to the high proportion of older Welsh-speaking people.

Within Wales the report shows there were two main groups of movement before the 1971 census. The first was a net flow of population from Gwynedd to Clwyd, and the second was within industrial South Wales.

South Glamorgan lost population to Mid Glamorgan and to a lesser extent to Gwent. Overall Mid Glamorgan gained population from the other Welsh counties.

In Clwyd the gain from Gwynedd was small compared with large inflows from England, particularly from the North-west and to a lesser extent from West Midlands. The Welsh Social Trends (Stationery Office, Cardiff, £3.50).

New help for the homeless becomes effective today

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

All homeless people are entitled to some help from their housing authorities under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, which comes into force in England and Wales today. But only those who fall within priority groups and who have not made themselves homeless will be entitled to permanent accommodation.

The new Act recognizes that homelessness is so widespread that it can no longer be treated as an emergency to be met by temporary accommodation, but is a basic housing matter demanding that the people affected should be rehoused permanently. The main purpose

is to make housing authorities, which have pools of accommodation available, help homeless people instead of leaving it to social service authorities to provide temporary accommodation for those in urgent need.

The priority groups include families with dependent children, pregnant women, people vulnerable because of old age, mental illness or handicap or physical disability and those homeless because of an emergency such as fire, flood or other disaster. The main groups excluded are the single homeless and childless couples, but housing authorities must nevertheless help them to find their own accommodation.

Two special hostels openFrom John Chartres
Manchester

Manchester claimed yesterday that the opening today of two hostels makes the city the first big housing authority in Britain to eliminate hotel bed-and-breakfast accommodation for homeless families and the first to respond to the new Housing (Homeless Persons) Act.

The hostels, in Didsbury and Chorlton-cum-Hardy, with an existing hostel at Moorbank.

provide temporary accommodation for 40 homeless families. The average length of stay is expected to be between three and four weeks. Families will then move to permanent homes provided by the city housing department or to private accommodation arranged by themselves.

Both hostels, formerly hotels, were acquired by the city council when it had more than 50 families in bed-and-breakfast accommodation.

Benefit scheme 'in danger of collapse'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

So many people now depend on supplementary benefit that the scheme is in danger of collapse, the Child Poverty Action Group says today in evidence to the review of the entire scheme. At the same time both the long-term unemployed and children are penalized because the basic benefit rates are too low to meet their needs, it adds.

The group argues that the review will be pointless if it simply provides no relief to those in the scheme, which Professor David Donnison, chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, has said is so complicated that the staff administering it often cannot understand it. Instead, the review should recommend changes to other parts of the social security system to reduce the numbers of people dependent on supplementary benefit.

"The setting up of the review has raised expectations of major reform. For the sake of the 4,750,000 dependent on supplementary benefit in this country these expectations must not be dashed."

The review was set up in September 1976, after the commission's annual report had criticized the way the scheme had developed. The results are expected next year.

The group says the review should propose increases in the other main social security benefits, particularly national insurance and disability benefits. It should also come out firmly in favour of a generous child-benefit scheme.

atching on the Safety Net, the Child Poverty Action group, 1 Macklin Street, London, WC2, 82p.

More than half au pair girls are overworked'

By David Nicholson-Lord

A survey showing that well over half the au pair girls in Britain are overworked by their host families has been presented to the Home Office as part of a new campaign to secure more protection for foreign girls.

The survey, one of the most comprehensive undertaken and covering 1,024 girls throughout the country, was designed by London University Computing Services to provide comparisons with the advice contained in the Home Office booklet, *Au Pair in Britain*.

According to the survey, 60 per cent of the girls work more than the 30 hours a week recommended by the Home Office, 12 per cent work more than 50 hours and 67 per cent did not receive a copy of the official booklet, as they were unacquainted with when they entered Britain.

Of those questioned, 29 per cent changed their host families after their arrival. The main reasons included overwork, lack of free time and time to study, and unsatisfactory living conditions. Two thirds of those who work more than 30 hours receive less than 25 weekly pocket money.

Don Placid Mevlink, chairman of International Youth Welfare, which sponsored the questionnaire, said yesterday that it provided positive evidence of the very unsatisfactory position of au pair girls in Britain.

"A large number of girls are exploited and used as cheap domestic labour," he said.

International Youth Welfare was set up to protect the interests of overseas students in Britain and has more than fifty affiliated organizations.

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WEST EUROPE

Pay rise for French on eve of strike day

From Ian Murray

Paris, Nov 30
The powerful left-wing trade unions are calling out their members tomorrow for the second national strike this year, in protest against the "austerity policies" of M Barre, the Prime Minister.

While union leaders were finalizing their plans the Cabinet met to agree measures to help pensioners, the lower paid and the civil service, and to prepare the way for a quarantine which will ensure that everyone can have a holiday.

The strike was called four weeks ago by the Communists, CGT, the Socialist CEDF and their militant teachers' union, FEN, after M Barre introduced a series of measures, which the unions claimed were inadequate, to hold down prices. The CGT and CFDT leaders have been meeting regularly since the previous national strike on May 24 to consider continuing the protest.

The May strike brought out an estimated 10 million workers and caused widespread stoppages in public services and heavy industry, where the left-wing unions are best organized. Tomorrow's strike, unlike the one in May, does not have the support of the moderate Force Ouvrière, so it is unlikely to be as widely observed.

Nevertheless, postal services are likely to be disrupted and consumers have been warned that there will be a 30 per cent reduction in electric power and that gas pressures will be reduced. Primary schools will be open but with fewer lessons and secondary school courses will be badly affected.

The Paris transport authority expects to be able to run a 60 per cent service, except when there are power cuts. Air France expects only slight alterations to timetables, but the railways are likely to be cut to run only 40 per cent of their services.

The stock market is unlikely to function normally. Newspapers will not appear and the press agencies closed at noon today. National theatres like the Opéra, Comédie-Française and the Odéon have had to cancel production and some television programmes may have to be altered.

M Barre said in a newspaper interview yesterday that the strike was organized by unions "which have always sought to politicize problems". Nevertheless, he felt that this year France had had a very quiet year in industrial relations.

President Giscard d'Estaing appeared on television this evening to explain the latest round of social measures.

The one affecting most people is the agreed increase in the level of the basic wage which, with effect from tomorrow, is increased to 10.05 francs an hour or 1,742 francs (£200) a month. This represents an increase of about £5.25 a month over the present rate, which was last raised at the beginning of October.

These increases, which are linked to the cost of living index, have more than compensated for inflation over the past year. The basic minimum wage has gone up by 12.4 per cent over the past year compared with a 9.5 per cent increase in the index, giving a 2.6 per cent increase in buying power.

Another important social measure is the increase in the aid to the poor to 11,000 francs (£1,264) a year. This represents a 10 per cent increase and means that pensions have more than doubled from the 5,200 francs level at the start of 1974. Nevertheless, 11,000 francs is still a pitifully low income.

Civil servants are also to benefit from today's measures. They will receive a pay increase of about 2.5 per cent, although this means that their purchasing power has scarcely risen at all over the year.

The measures to help people have holidays are aimed principally at the four million who say they cannot afford to take the break they need each year.



Preparing for space mission: Mme Anny Chantal Levasseur-Regourd, a French candidate for the American Spacelab mission in 1980, preparing for tests at Farnborough yesterday on the centrifuge, a machine which simulates the enormous stresses on the human body during launching and reentry of spacecraft. Altogether five European scientists will be

offered to the Americans as astronauts on the project. At present the short-list has been reduced to 11 men and one woman, whose suitability is being evaluated in various countries. Psychological tests are being made in West Germany, clinical and physical evaluations in France and the Netherlands, and testing in simulated space conditions in Germany and Britain.

Kappler affair still casts shadow on Schmidt-Andreotti meeting

From Peter Nichols

Rome, Nov 30

Veron is once again cast for the scene of the meeting of Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and Simon Andreotti, the Italian Prime Minister, first planned for August and postponed as a result of the Kappler affair.

The two heads of government will have six hours of talks tomorrow at the Villa Maffei. The wounds left by the escape of the former SS colonel from a military hospital in Rome are still troublesome. The Italian press today ruefully reflects on West German descriptions of the new life of Herr Kappler and his wife (who arranged his escape) at Soissons where he is "protected like a minister".

Difficulties are said to have been placed in the way of interrogation by an examining judge on the ground of health though, since his escape, Herr Kappler's health is said to have improved notably.

Herr Kappler has stated as much in a recent interview published in the Florence newspaper, *La Nazione*. Herr Kappler was in the Roman hospital because he was said to be dying of cancer.

The Milan *Corriere della Sera* says today that the tone of West German reports on the Kappler's new life is "almost provocative". They are said to be leaving the wife's flat and buying a villa with park attached in the centre of Solfat. The money would be coming, it is ironically suggested, from the Red Cross.

The old ghosts are in fact dying hard. A Communist youth was stabbed to death in Bari on Monday night by right-wing extremists who apparently were shouting *Stig Heil*.

By another coincidence, the Turin newspaper *La Stampa* printed today some of the recent writings by Signor Carlo Rubbia, the physicist, who died yesterday after having been shot by left-wing terrorists. One of the reprinted articles is entitled: *Achtung Germmania* and surveys the fears of swing in West Germany towards authoritarianism as a result of the kidnapping of Dr Hans-Martin Schleyer, the German industrialist, and the horror set off at the effect of German terrorism.

But the situation is however, depicted in this dark atmosphere which settled over popular feelings towards West Germany since the cancellation of the August meeting.

The Rome newspaper, *La Repubblica* finds indications of the need to revise their outlook on Europe and, in particular on individual partners who had been treated with too much suspicion.

The West Germans are said to be less drawn towards the illusion of being able to avoid the Continent's crisis by withdrawing into a censurable isolation. Isolation is now seen to make West Germany itself more vulnerable politically and likely to be left alone at moments of internal crisis.

One of the great mistakes is said now to be recognized is that of having made the 1974 results with hindsight.

The results of the Verona meeting will probably be discussed on relations with the East. Herr Schmidt has recently been to Poland and Mr Gierek, the Polish leader, is here on an official visit and will make an unprecedented call on to the Pope. This should lead on to the vital issue of West Germany's aversion to communism and Italy's acceptance of the Communists as supporters of the Government.

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The results of the Verona

Nine injured as police quell Spanish prison riot

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Nov 30

A riot at a maximum security prison near Madrid resulted in the destruction of 95 per cent of the cells and indirectly led to the death of a policeman, it was learnt here today.

The trouble began at the Ofelia prison at about 3.30 pm yesterday. A number of prisoners transferred there for having taken part in riots in other prisons wrecked the furniture in their cells, set mattresses and other combustible material alight, and broke out of their cells, according to an official of the Ministry of Justice.

About 150 prisoners held out against prison guards and police for three hours. Hundreds of riot police and a

detachment of the civil guard were called in to quell the riot, as firemen fought the fire.

Some of the prisoners reached the roof of one of the prison buildings and threw tiles down onto the police. The police replied with rubber bullets and smoke bombs. Nine people were injured including three policemen.

As the commander of the civil guard detachment was driven to the scene in rain, his car skidded and crashed, killing the driver and injuring the commander and another officer.

Amid the debris prisoners were found reading "Copi" a magazine of a prison organization which calls for sentences for common criminals as well as political prisoners. Copi is supported by the Spanish Communist Party.

Inquiries into the death of another pro-anarchist demonstrator, who died on March 14 after being hit by a rubber bullet, have now been closed.

Policeman goes free after Basque's death

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Nov 30

Military authorities in Burgos have cleared a policeman charged against a policeman to be dropped in connection with the killing of a Basque pro-anarchist demonstrator last year.

Señor Enrique Pascual, a member of the civil guard, had been charged with killing Señor Jesús Zabala, a worker. According to an official statement, Señor Zabala had taken refuge in a house together with other demonstrators. When the police entered the house, he was hit with a chair and "was obliged to open fire".

Hourly rates have been increased from \$8.45 to \$10.40 and each docker is guaranteed a minimum annual wage of \$16,640. The settlement, which will last for three years, also allows for higher payments by employers into pension and welfare funds.

Horses die in fire

Tamworth, New South Wales, Nov 30—Twelve trotting horses were burnt to death when fire swept through their locked stables here.

It is not my view that bigness is itself is bad. Rather it is the dispersion, against which others have to be measured and considered", the Governor was quick to explain. "It's a matter of focus".

Sounding very much like an aspiring PhD in sociology, he analysed the receptive merits of large and small-scale technology, laid it up with the happy practical example that in

the First World War which he believes Hitler sent to his mistress. He still has to authenticate whether the writing on the back of the photograph is Hitler's and until then is not willing to say what the text is.

Professor Maser says that M Loret contacted him of his own accord in February last year, and that he twice refused to continue talking to him before taking him seriously because he did not believe him.

Only when M Loret had answered 250 questions, whose answers could only be known by someone directly involved in the relationship with 100 per cent accuracy, did the professor realize he had found the man he was looking for.

Asked by a *Prade* correspondent today whether the revelation that Hitler had a son would be an encouragement for neo-nazism, Professor Maser said he was convinced that the effect would be the opposite.

The fact that the great propagator of racial purity had a son by a Frenchwoman, and later Gestapo, questioning, during which he denied the identity of his son's father, is not likely to improve his image.

"Nor is the fact that he appears to have been prepared to have them killed, if necessary. It also destroys the myth that after he was injured in 1917 he volunteered again immediately because he wanted to serve his country. He just wanted to get back to his French mistress."

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OVERSEAS

Syrian minister compares Sadat peace trip to Jerusalem with Pétain's surrender to Hitler

From Edward Mortimer

Damascus, Nov 30

President Sadat was today compared to Marshal Pétain, head of the Vichy regime in Nazi-occupied France, by Mr Ahmed Iskander, the Syrian Information Minister.

Mr Iskander, a close associate of President Assad of Syria, claimed in an interview with *The Times* that Pétain had used the same words to justify his meeting Hitler on occupied French soil and signing a treaty with him as Mr Sadat has used to justify his visit to Israel.

He recalled that General de Gaulle had denounced Pétain's meeting with Hitler as an insult to the French nation, and de Gaulle has remained the nation's hero until now, while Pétain is in the eyes of all French people in a traitor.

It may be argued that Mr Sadat did not accept Israeli occupation, but went to Jerusalem to secure Israel's withdrawal. Mr Iskander did not agree. First, he said, Mr Sadat had "accepted ending the state of war before withdrawal".

Secondly, he had "admitted that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel; he was the first

Arab to do so".

"This means that the pressure of the United States, instead of being exerted on the Israeli Government to withdraw from the occupied territories, will be exerted against the other Arabs to do the same round the Israeli attitude."

"It is in order to 'confront the danger', that President Sadat is planning to go to the summit conference of hard line Arab powers called by Colonel Gaddafi. But it was clear that he did not intend to be stumped into a 'rejectionist' line. In his press conference on Monday he emphasized that the object of the Tripoli summit was "not to isolate one person or one regime"; that Mr Sadat was still in the eyes

of the Arab League, and that he was wrong to speak of a "divorce" between Egypt and Syria. There were "simply differences of viewpoint between us about the methods of achieving peace", he said.

One of the main talking-points in political circles in Damascus during the past few days has been whether Iraq would agree to drop its campaign against the Syrian regime and accept the Tripoli summit.

Mr Yassin Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organ-

ation, apparently fearing that Iraq and Libya may use the crisis to promote the Palestinian Rejection Front at his expense, has been trying hard to bring those two countries into a common front with Syria. He reported back to President Assad yesterday, after being in Baghdad.

The Syrians have been encouraged by the latest Iraqi statement, which describes the danger created by the Sadr visit as more important than any other regional dispute. But they remain uncertain about Iraq's real intentions.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes: Jordan and Lebanon have informed Egypt that they would be willing to attend the preparatory Middle East peace conference in Cairo next week, provided all the other invited parties agree to come.

Since Russia has rejected President Sadat's invitation and only Iraq and the United Nations have accepted it, this condition seems unlikely to be met.

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Mr Yassin Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organ-

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OVERSEAS

Abortion debate holds up pay for 240,000 US government staff

From David Gross

Washington, Nov 30

The 240,000 employees of the Department of Labour and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare are waiting anxiously for a solution to a long struggle in Congress which could block their pay from mid-November tonight.

Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives have been arguing for several months over the delicate issue of federally-funded abortions for women with low incomes.

The dispute is holding up final approval of a \$60,200m (about £33,400m) tax appropriations Bill for the two departments. This should have been cleared by the end of September, but the deadline has been extended twice to keep pay cheques flowing. There is now strong resistance to yet another delay.

Numerous attempts have been made to find a compromise between the exceptionally hard-line on abortion adopted by the House and the only slightly more liberal posture of the Senate.

With the combined backing of President Carter and the Supreme Court, who feel that the Federal Government should not be obliged to finance abortions for the poor, the House wants to limit help to those women whose life would be endangered by giving birth and to victims of rape and incest, under certain strict conditions.

The Senate would also like to extend federal funds to cases where pregnancy would cause "severe and long-lasting physical health damage". It also advocates less restrictive conditions for rape and incest.

When both Houses of Congress met for the second time this month yesterday to try to resolve their differences, anti-abortion members of the House of Representatives were again adamant in their refusal to accept any compromise along the lines by the Senate.

Mr Bhutto's discredited security force disbanded

From Our Correspondent

Islamabad, Nov 30

The martial law authorities today disbanded the federal security force created by Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister, in 1973. An Interior Ministry statement said the force had been used by Mr Bhutto as an instrument of oppression and political intimidation.

Although the federal security force was in theory under the administrative control of the Interior Ministry, it was known to have been used by Mr Bhutto and his aides to destroy political opposition.

General Zia, the chief martial law administrator, first ordered an inquiry into the federal

security force last July. An investigative committee found that the force, set up to assist the civil administration and the police for maintaining law and order in cases of large-scale unlawful assemblies or serious breaches of law and order, had been used contrary to its prescribed charter of duties as an instrument of oppression and political intimidation.

The committee further found that the image of the force had been irretrievably tarnished and therefore recommended its disbandment.

Most of the 25,000 members will be absorbed into other forces such as the police, but those with criminal convictions will be discharged.

Third World Report

Critical North-South balancing act

If the Third World's problems are to be solved, everyone must make an effort, Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor and chairman of the Social Democratic Party, says in a statement. Unless the imbalance between North and South is corrected "we shall go to the devil", he declares.

Herr Brandt announced on Tuesday the 16 members of an independent commission, of which he is chairman, set up to find ways to close the North-South gap. Extracts from his statement, the text of which was provided by the Labour & Trades Union Press Service, follow.

The struggle for greater equality of opportunity for the weak has never been, or at all events has long since ceased to be, a task or policy to be pursued by nations in isolation. Personally, I am convinced that development policy has already assumed the proportions of a world-wide social question and that it will remain such for the remainder of this century.

Perhaps we Social Democrats can have a special part to play. Our answer to getting a peace deal off the ground in one region, where we have taught something of how coexistence between divergent economic orders and two political systems can be facilitated.

My first point is to see our North-South policy as an element in the maintenance of peace, a hard pillar in common. The current attempt to harmonize better the conflicting interests of East and West and the efforts being made to achieve a balanced deployment of troops and weaponry in Europe and to limit the strategic arms of the two alliances.

The matters on which the North and the South are at issue call for policies of harmonization and peace on a global scale, whose immediate goal must be to prevent a trial of strength and the senseless confrontation that would invite, while permitting possible exacerbations that would yet fall short of a catastrophe; and whose guiding method would be that this prevention shall not require any state whether of North or South the abandonment of principles and convictions by which it plots its own course.

In pursuing world economic relations on a new footing, it is now necessary, down at the drawing board and thinking up a uniform, hybrid, global sys-



A Vietnamese child walks ashore from the trawler.

Australia refuses to send back refugees

From Our Correspondent

Melbourne, Nov 30

Mr Andrew Peacock, the Australian Foreign Minister, today rejected the Vietnamese Government's demand for the return of 182 people on board the hijacked trawler, long Be 1 which arrived in Darwin yesterday. He said that genuine refugees would not be turned away.

Most of the 151 refugees and 21 crew members have been taken to a Darwin quarantine station. Three Vietnamese military guards who were overpowered by the crew are still locked up on the trawler. About 80 of the refugees who came ashore carrying possessions in large cane baskets, are children.

As they were being allowed ashore a senior official of the Vietnamese Embassy in Canberra went to the Department of Foreign Affairs to demand the return of the trawler and all those on board.

This is the first time the Australian Government has been involved in a diplomatic tug-of-war over South-East Asian refugees, several hundred of whom have arrived here during the last few weeks. Mr Peacock said today that those who wished to return to Vietnam would be permitted to do so.

As spokesmen for the Vietnamese Embassy described the seizure of the vessel as "an act of piracy", Foreign Affairs were today trying to play down suggestions that a diplomatic incident could develop over the hijacked vessel. Mr Peacock has invited the Vietnamese Embassy's charge de mission in Friday to discuss the matter.

Most of the 25,000 members will be absorbed into other forces such as the police, but those with criminal convictions will be discharged.

'Patriotic Front must approve internal settlement'

Black rule may not end Rhodesian war, Zambian leader says

From a Correspondent

Lusaka, Nov 30

President Kaunda of Zambia says he would be prepared to support an internal settlement in Rhodesia if it met with the approval of the Patriotic Front and the African "front line" states.

In an interview Dr Kaunda added, however, that Zambia would support a guerrilla war against any black government in Rhodesia opposed by the Patriotic Front nationalists.

"If we had reason to believe that this was a genuine black government, we would not (continue the war); if we had reason to believe it was not a genuine black government, we certainly would", he said.

"It's the Patriotic Front's decision, not ours."

Zambia is one of the five "front line" states surrounding Rhodesia (the others are Tanzania, Botswana, Mozambique and Angola), and is usually willing to leave the door open to the possibility of such elections. But he still desires the concept.

"To bring our elections first

and independence next is like putting the cart before the horse," he said. He criticized those who expect "the bitterness that has been going on for so long now" to disappear at the mere mention of the "magic-word" election.

"What is required is to give those unfortunate people time to成熟. Once they have

done that a couple of years, three, four, then you would hold elections which would

bring out a true democratic settlement not involving the society." It should be recognized, he added, that the Patriotic Front armed forces were led by a political unit and that political unit should be given an equal chance.

Earlier this week Mr Nkomo said he would not join a coalition with any of the nationalists now inside Rhodesia, but Dr Kaunda calls this "a public stand".

Despite the obituaries for the Anglo-American proposals being written by many of the participants in the talks, the Zambian leader believes the plan could form the basis for a final settlement, if the British are prepared to compromise.

A letter he had sent to the British Government last week contained an assurance that Zambia was not working against the proposals. But the future of the package was in the hands of the West.

"If we are not careful", he said, "if we are not careful, we will go into the limbo where all other initiatives have gone."

Zambia would continue fighting for change in Rhodesia, even if Western opinion turned against the Patriotic Front.

Police Telex referred to Biko injury

From Marcel Berlins

Pretoria, Nov 30

A Telex message sent by the head of the security police in Port Elizabeth stated that an injury had been "inflicted" on Steve Biko, and gave a precise time, 7 am on September 7.

The Telex, quoted in evidence on the thirteenth day of the inquest into the Black Consciousness leader, was sent by Colonel Pieter Goosen to security headquarters in Pretoria.

He agreed that in spite of Biko's appearance of being in a semi-coma, he still thought it possible that he was shamming.

Colonel Goosen said that he could not explain where Mr James Kruger, Minister of Justice and Police, had got the information which led him to make a press statement that Biko had threatened to go on a hunger strike. He had never heard Biko make any such threat.

Warrant Officer A. Fouche, one of the squad guarding Biko on the night of September 6, when it was believed he was in a semi-coma, was called to give evidence during the inquest. He said he had been told that the injuries were sustained, said that he could throw no light on the subject.

He noticed the following evening, September 7, that Biko's lip was swollen and was told that he had been brought under control after having attacked security policemen during the day.

Warrant Officer Fouche was asked about the journey in the Land Rover, on which he accompanied Biko. He did not think Biko was "unduly ill". He did not think he was in semi-coma.

Ethiopians to use Kenyan port

Dissident flies to America

Moscow, Nov 30.—Ethiopia, besieged by guerrillas, left today for a six-month visit to the United States. Mr Grigorenko, who is 70 and was a major-general until his demotion in the 1960s, is to have an operation to visit his son, who lives in New York.

His departure means that five of the original members of Moscow's dissident Helsinki monitoring group are now abroad.

ADVERTISEMENT

The double standards game (continued)

THE STRANGE SILENCE OF DR. OWEN



R ecently the South African government banned distribution in their country of the Right-wing publication "Did six million really die?", an attempt to whitewash the mass murder of Jews in Nazi Germany.

This odious piece of propaganda could have harmed relations between white communities in South Africa.

No reports of the banning appeared in the mass media of the world. No ambassadors were recalled "for consultation". No protesters appeared in Trafalgar Square with banners.

Yet, when the South African government banned publication of the newspaper "The World", which is white-owned and NOT the ONLY Black voice it is alleged to be, there was a moralistic outcry...

... so who presses the switches?

Racism, whether anti-white or anti-black is not acceptable in South Africa.

Any attempt to interfere with the truly

free press is to be deplored but let us avoid double standards.

For instance...

Four editors have been arrested in the past month by the self-appointed military rulers of Pakistan. A fifth died of a brain haemorrhage shortly after the same army authorities closed his newspaper ("Times" report November 4th 1977).

The four seized were Mr. Syed Badruddin, editor of the Lahore edition of "Musawat", an Urdu language newspaper; Mr. Nazir Naji of the Urdu "Hayat"; Mr. Altaf Qureshi, editor of the monthly magazine Urdu Digest and Mr. Safar Lodhi, editor of the Rawalpindi "Hayat". The editor who died was Mr. Ibrahim Jalees of the Karachi edition of "Musawat".

Pakistan is a member of the Security Council but no motions of censure have been tabled. The Foreign Office has not protested. Why not Dr. Owen? ... Double standards again?

PARLIAMENT, November 30, 1977

Government hoping to extend fire precautions law to more buildings

House of Lords

Huts had been forced to close and accommodation lost as a result of the regulations under the Fire Precautions Act, 1971, Lady Vickers (C) said.

She was initiating a debate on the question of fire precautions in small hotels and old people's homes.

Lady Vickers said the cost of implementing the regulations could be phenomenal. There had been little financial support despite the changes made. Many small hotels had been unable to improve the amenities in their hotels while carrying out the increased fire precautions measures required.

Viscount Long (C) said he understood there were 37,000 small hotels and guest houses throughout the United Kingdom, about 10 per cent had applied for a certificate under the 1971 Act. Of these, 72 per cent had been inspected and only 40 per cent had been issued with a certificate.

Things were not moving quickly, and even more alarmingly, the figures had not been reduced their accommodation to avoid the Act's provisions, a loss to tourists and British holiday-makers alike.

I believe (she said) it will take some time yet to implement the legislation. I am sure I would like to see it modified and made easier. If we can do that then I am sure

this legislation could be carried out more quickly by fire protection officers and others.

Lord Amhurst (L) said fire, feebly and confused old people woken by fire at night often could not cope with a fire door opening at the top of the staircase. They might open the door, then when they were outside, be unable to find their way back in and be killed for more easily than by the fire. Fire protection officers should bear this in mind and not treat old people's homes in the same way as small hotels or children's homes where there were younger, more active people.

I wonder (he said) whether it might not be possible to have fire safety lessons given both to the staff and the inhabitants of these places. If more people knew what to do and where the fire doors were that might provide some protection with simpler and not quite so expensive fire doors. I hope the Fire Protection Board the fire regulations might seem harsh and severe but they were practical and London in particular should never be a great fire again.

They were one of the things that saved London from greater destruction. In 1940, fire by fire was contained and there was no name of the firestorms which occurred in Germany's bombed cities such as Hamburg. The debate was concluded.

Whereabouts of businessman still unknown

The Government had taken all possible steps, without success, to determine the whereabouts of Mr Robert Scammon, the businessman who had been in Uganda. Lord Gormley-Roberts, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said:

It is not only disturbing but deeply deplorable that there are no means in present circumstances of finding out where Mr Scammon is. We are doing all we can to find out and are following up every possible lead.

Recalling that Mr Scammon renounced his British citizenship and took Ugandan citizenship in 1973, Mr. said he had not made it easier for the British Government to help Mr Scammon's family to ascertain where he was.

Lord Gormley-Roberts added: I know of no country in Africa or elsewhere who does not join with us in wholehearted condemnation of these barbaric acts in Uganda.

Mr Dennis Canavan (West Riding, Lab) said the EEC would be an important step in the developing relationship between China and western Europe, the East of Bessborough (C) said. He was opening the debate on the European Council's proposal to strengthen the existing basis for economic cooperation to their mutual advantage.

The Government welcomed the proposed trade agreement between the EEC and China which they hoped would be signed in the new year.

They were prepared to look at a proposal for the establishment of a permanent Committee delegation to Paris. It would be agreed that there would be a joint committee following from supporting the proposed agreement.

It was expected that a small delegation from the Commission would visit Peking early next year to put proposals to the Chinese authorities about mounting a trade mission in Peking.

The debate was concluded.

If an agreement could be achieved between the EEC and the People's Republic of China this would be an important step in the developing relationship between China and western Europe, including the United Kingdom.

Britain, within the Community, should be in the forefront of China's partners in this development, the East of Bessborough (C) said. He was opening the debate on the European Council's proposal to strengthen the existing basis for economic cooperation to their mutual advantage.

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The debate was concluded.

It is possible to charge him with treason and to dispossess him of his 9,000 acres of land in my constituency?

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NEW BOOKS

In terms of his own best verse

The English Auden
Poems, Essays & Dramatic
Writings, 1922-1959, by W. H.
Auden
Edited by Edward Mendelson
Faber, £3.95.

W. H. Auden became a poet at half past three one afternoon in March, 1923. (The place was a ploughed field and you will find the occasion commemorated in the 35th stanza of Part IV of his *Letter to Lord Byron*.) When he was 20, and at Oxford, he wrote a selection of his poems to T. S. Eliot. Eliot rejected them, but said politely, "I should be interested to follow your work." As it happened, a week or two before he had this encouragement from Eliot, Auden had written the first of the poems which would become famous. These were the poems first published by Stephen Spender in 1928, and then (with additions and corrections) as the book *Poems* (Faber, 1930). After this, there followed *The Orators* (1932), and *Look, Stranger!* (1936)—although the latter title was invented by someone else, and Auden added it. With the addition of songs from plays, and unpublished bits and pieces from manuscripts, running through to the end of the decade, and making in the trips to Iceland with Louis MacNeice and to China with Christopher Isherwood, this is the retrain covered by Edward Mendelson's edition of the early work as *The English Auden*. The book is well named. It ends, of course, with Auden in America at the outbreak of the Second World War, showing an affirming flame in one of his dives in *Fifty-Second Street*.

The English Auden is an attractive and an illuminating book. It is also, for any reader not to have known these poems as they came out, a startling one. Auden in his final postures was such a Prospero, such an authoritarian old windbag, that it comes as a welcome shock to see him isolated in this way as no Prospero at all, but rather some sort of Ariel. The early poems are magical, neurotic, inspired, obscure. They still give off an authentic sense of some never-stated personal crisis, and here I find Mr. Mendelson's attempts to date them individually of the greatest possible interest. No doubt a biography will one day tell us why Auden was wounded into clipped, cryptic, and most memorable verse circa 1927-30.

Robert Nye

The system Italian style

The Net and the Quest: Patterns of Community and How They Can Survive Progress
By Ralph Gasser
(Maurice Temple Smith, £8.50)

A small company has given the Indian experience of the last three decades its rightful importance as the vital sounding board for western values. This experience is unique: in many ways, industrial expansion was extraordinarily quick and, in the earlier years, accompanied by great enthusiasm. It stopped with equal drama. The land was abandoned not only as inadequate to live from but as repellent in itself; cities were swollen by immigration; institutions, and to a large extent political thinking, remained what they had been with the result that the human element and the body politic fell still further apart, revealing both the merits and defects of this new way of living in its uncomplicated nakedness. This nakedness itself was illuminated against the still surviving tenets of a traditional society which was not completely washed away in practice or psychologically, by the simultaneous effects of industrial revolution and consumer society.

Ralph Gasser takes a slightly different focus but the direction is the same. He selected for six months in S. Giorgio Alibane, a nondescript Calabrian village. "There", he says, "I found a time-capsule where the ideas of fulfillment of the Europe of more than a hundred years ago still directly motivate people's attitudes and sense of."

In my opinion, *The English Auden* goes a long way towards re-establishing Auden in terms of his own best verse, the verse that he wrote when he was possibly still in a stage of being wounded into memorable utterances. He began to write in 1923, to hold much on rhyme's length. There is nothing surprising in the unpublished work, incidentally, which only goes to show that Auden had a keen sense of his own best. Once again I am struck by the colossal debt to Laura Riding. There are whole poems which could be straight out of any of her volumes of the late 1920s. Auden admitted to this influence, I believe, but has any critic followed it up seriously?

Robert Nye

There is an incredible diversity of approach and views of LSE to the point where place seems positively schizophrenic. No one place could be all these places copied together. At the same time there are some features in common to all of the essays which have assumed an unusual importance. Many seemed to be more concerned about their travelling arrangements than learning. Again, unlike Oxford or Cambridge, romance seems to have figured in few lives, even where contributors eventually married fellow-students. Only Lady Jacqueline Weldon and Ron Moody seem to have been aware that passions could seeth as much as LSE as elsewhere.

One redeeming feature of this book, though not enough to save it, is the tremendous affection in which many of the academic staff were held by the students. Shining above all others is Harold Laski, but Karl Popper, Lionel (now Lord) Robbins, Kingsley Smellie and many other names are repeated throughout the book.

The jacket threatens that *My Drama School and My Medical School* are to follow. Will it never end?

Margaret Allen

Not mine

MY LSE
Introduced by Joan Abse
Robson Books, £5.25.

I had hoped, as a graduate of LSE that I would find this book more palatable than its predecessors in the series, *My Oxford* and *My Cambridge*. Alas, no. I read it eagerly only to find that the book is such a hothouse that the overall impression of *My LSE* is of this, the result of the choice of contributors, or is it in the nature of the book itself, in that personal recollections generally from many years ago are intensely and inevitably subjective and often unlikely to bear much relation to the reality?

First, the contributors. There are basically 11 of them, the last two still being students whose views understandably are rather immature. Of the rest, all the stereotyped figures are there; The statutory (one only) woman; the student rebel; the foreign student who went on to greater things, the showbiz personality and so on. Of the 11 grown-ups writing, five of them either teach or have taught some time at LSE, a proportion far too high, as experience of teaching at the School may tend to cloud the student period.

Margaret Allen

Buying and selling

Under the Hammer
The Auctions and Auctioneers of London
By Jeremy Cooper
(Constable, £6.50)

Auctions have been with us a long time. Samuel Baker started Sotheby's in 1733 and James Christie set up as an independent auctioneer in 1766. A successful auction is an instant bridge between a seller and a buyer. No one knows this better than the legal profession who often have to dispose of major assets, such as the complete furnishings of a house, a library or an art collection. Very rapidly, Jeremy Cooper's study of the London auction houses, which follows his earlier book on London antique markets, will be an ideal tool in the hands of any ambitious young solicitor advising bereaved clients. Mr. Cooper mixes history (a bit unevenly digested), anecdote and practical facts in equal proportions to make a very readable assessment of how such auction room functions and what it is good at.

He worked for seven years at Sotheby's and, in his preface that he has had some difficulty in not divulging commercial confidences. For this reason he states, diplo-

matically around matters that the trade will know to be contentious. He obviously admires Peter Wilson, whom he regards as the architect of the great post-war appreciation of art and antiques, but this does not blind him to Christie's traditional strengths or the virtues of the enterprising Christopher Weston at Phillips'.

He is at his best on the lesser-known auction houses, many of which are out of central London. How many people know, for example, that Harrod's Depositories (Arundel Terrace, not Knightsbridge) hold fortnightly three-day sales that continue to do a good job of getting oddities from their warehouses—furniture and works of art which families have hoped one day to reclaim, but are finally obliged to sell merely to settle the mounting storage bill? or that there are four firms specializing in stamp issues, two in cigarette cards and one in postcards?

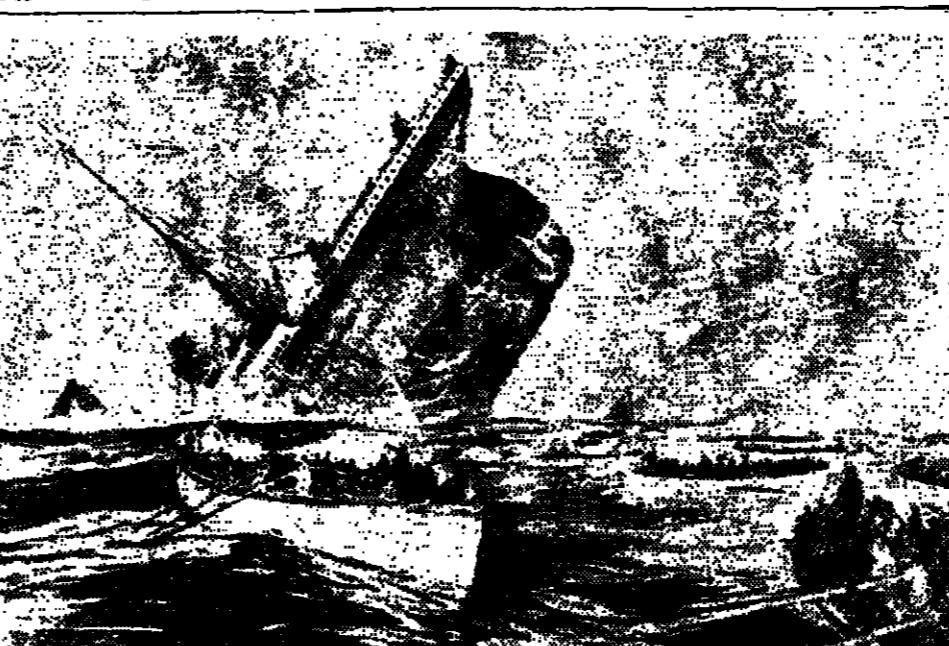
Mr. Cooper has taken great pains over a detailed guide for buyers and sellers which sets out the terms and conditions of each house. It includes a specific introductory commissio which the major firms are prepared to pay for new business, and the reductions they make for trade customers. It must be the first time that this information has emerged in print.

Frank Herrmann

In the Christmas Books supplement last week the caption to the cartoon on page 11 was transposed. In order, from the left, it should have read: Peter Arnett, James Gilmore, Al H. Schlesinger, Max Beerbohm and H. M. Bateman.

Peter Nichols

حذا من الأصل



Down and down. The "Titanic" sank two years after Edward VII's death. Yet it remains the perfect symbol of the permanent eclipse of the palmy days Britain knew under his ten years of kingship. The Illustrated London News Social History of Edwardian Britain, by James Bishop, with a foreword by Sir Charles Petrie (Angus and Robertson, £4.95) briefly chronicles the decade when we were a Land of Hope and Glory, and puts it visually before us in an array of those photographs and engravings the paper has long been famous for.

Sailing perfectionist

Peter Jay

The Atlantic Challenge
The Story of Tintenman "FT"
By David Palmer
(Hodder & Carter, £4.95)

The Atlantic Challenge is the story of David Palmer, four-time champion to win the Jester Class of the 1976 Observer single-handed transatlantic race (Ostar). He did not quite win—but there all similarity ceases. David Palmer is a racer. He is determined to win. He is a confirmed multi-hull man (though much saner about their strengths and weaknesses than some multi-hull fanatics).

He likes to sail alone. He favours (although in the end like so many transatlantic sailors, he did not follow his own carefully planned route) the southern Azores route to America.

He carried 15 gallons of water to 225. He is a fine helmsman, a resourceful bosun and a Cezanne-style navigator (he has an unerring habit of saying "South" when he means "North" and "East" when he means "West").

He is a devout believer in the 1975 Round Britain Race, second

in the 1975 Round Britain race, first British boat home and third in the Jester class in the 1976 Ostar) to justify to anyone except a certifiable perfectionist like the author the extraordinary energy and courage which he poured into the project.

Although he is a devout believer in the second rule of sailing (safety first), he is by no means its most consistent practitioner. His chronicle is a more continuous record of sailing stories than any to which I have succumbed since Joshua Slocum's (with whom, perchance, the author shares a birthday) great chronicle, *Sailing Alone Around the World*.

It is very much more than a yarn—which is part of its fascination—more of a psycho-drama in which the author is assailed endlessly by wave after wave of fantasy, ambition, hope, disappointment, frustration, self-doubt, self-condemnation, hysteria, hallucination, recovery, lucidity, renewed elation, serenity, and then again misfortune, rage and despair.

All of these things are described with the utmost candour and perception in a way which will outrage devotees of the sailor's traditional understatement of personal reactions to such nautical drama, but which will also delight those land dwellers who constantly bemoan the lack of imagination which lies out there alone under imminent threat of total destruction. With this anchor it all hangs out:

"I leave Luke on deck, go down below, crawl into a sleeping bag and burst into tears of frustration of paranoid rage."

The tale is especially fascinating to me. The author has been a personal friend for 20 years (we once shared a catamaran with others, although this was not totally harmonious since—as the rest of us pointed out—he had gone to the wrong school, Eton). Secondly he describes in lurid detail his epic Round Britain race in 1975 with Luke FitzHerbert—the "Com-

plaint" sailor—with whom I am due to enter the same race in 1978.

Thirdly, my friends and relations keep appearing in the story in both corporeal and hallucinatory forms. Lastly I was also sailing across the Atlantic at the same time as "FT". But there all similarity ceases. David Palmer is a racer. He is determined to win. He is a confirmed multi-hull man (though much saner about their strengths and weaknesses than some multi-hull fanatics).

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Short stories

Splendid Lives
By Penelope Gilliatt
(Secker & Warburg, £3.50)

Silken Eyes
By Françoise Sagan
(Andre Deutsch, £3.25)

Little Tales of Misogyny
By Patricia Highsmith
(Heinemann, £3.90)

Ten Minutes on a June Morning
and other stories
By Francis Clifford
(Hodder & Stoughton, £3.95)

The Hermit
By Iain Crichton Smith
(Gollancz, £4.20)

Johnny Panic and the Bible of Dreams
By Sylvia Plath
(Faber, £4.95)

The short story is clearly flourishing, judging by publishers' support (which suggests demand) and the high standard of these volumes which all, in their individual fashion, offer readers as rich and varied a

Fashion

by Prudence Glynn

The new length dress

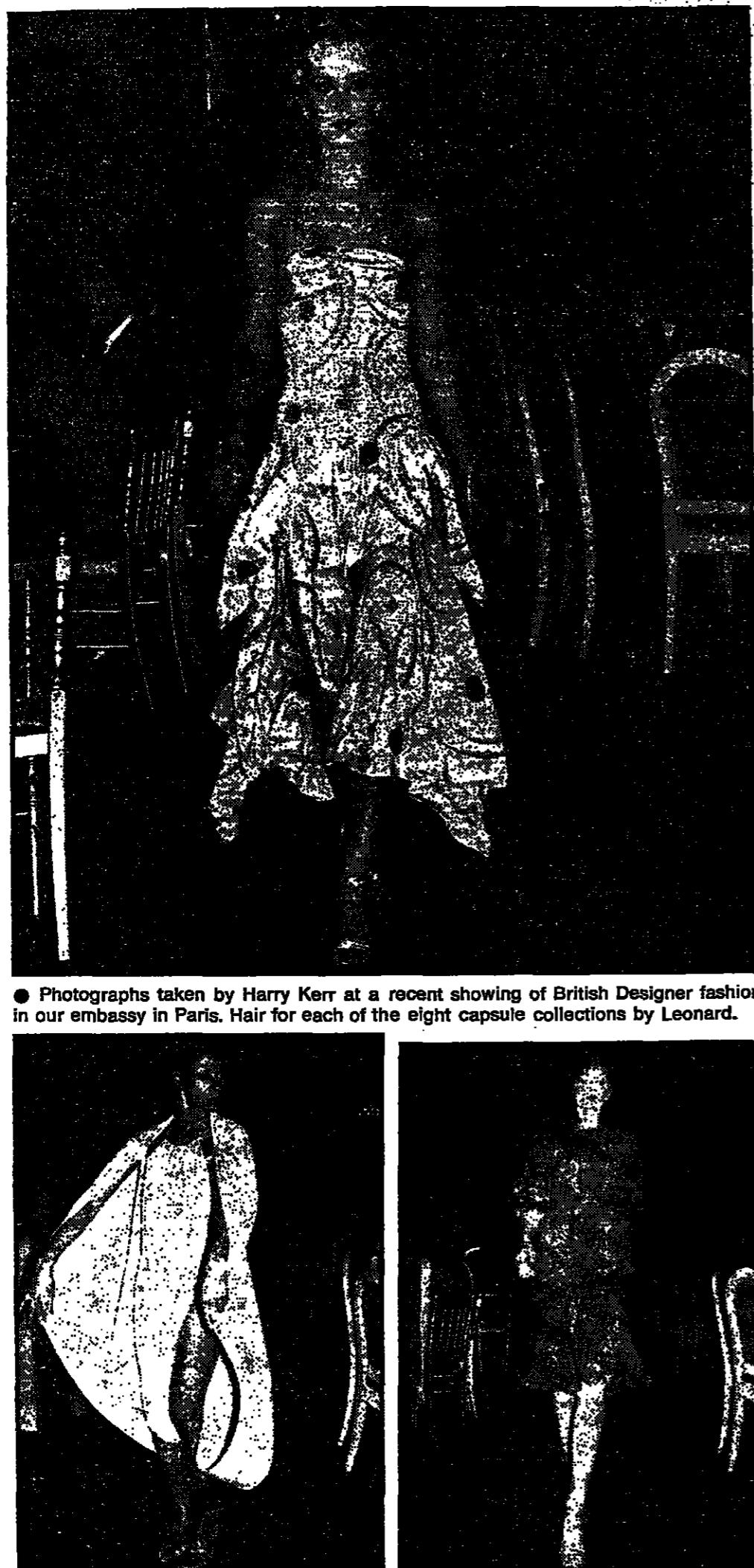
I can still remember the frisson caused in local society by the appearance of the reigning county belle at a Hunt Ball in a short evening dress. It was strapless, remorseless, boned, made of many layers of black tulle and apart from its length indistinguishable from what we goggling 17-year-olds were wearing. The short evening dress was something of a fifteen flash in the pan, though the cocktail dress (taffeta, bateau neckline, three-quarter length sleeves) lived on. With the coming of Courreges and the new spirit of emancipation, the cocktail dress died because you just wore your gabardine carapace morning noon and night—except for dining privately, when you put on a short dress or a party frock formal do when all the frocks were full length—and the French gained the reputation for producing the most romantic and lovely evening dresses in the world.

But fashion moves inexorably onwards, and even when it seems repetitive—and can be, in gauche hands—in the minds of the top level designers there is always a new aspect to any style to be explored. This season, it is without doubt the re-birth of the dressy short dress. Somewhere between a truncated ball gown and those demure little numbers the French and the Americans (who cut out all the time, remember) call restaurant dresses, the easiest term to apply is probably just party frocks. They were born, as all popular fashion is, from the needs of society—more people travelling, internationalization of styles, the everlasting problem of what to pack in a small suitcase (which you frequently have to carry yourself) and the one multi-purpose garment which will take you from cocktails at the Embassy through dinner in a bistro to the smartest bâtie in town, and if needs must, to buy but the most formal ball. It was a relief to find that British designers are becoming less insular by the number of party frocks they included at the first ever showing of our top group (or indeed any group) at the embassy in Paris.

Top: Pure silk crepe de chine dress in grey printed with peach and silver glitter, by Jean and Martin Pallant. The fabric, from Jacqueline Rogers, is Brazilian. The dress can be found at Lucienne Phillips, 89 Knightsbridge, SW1, and costs around £180.

Right: A dress in 100 per cent synthetic jersey from Hurel, by Yuki.

Far right: Gina Fratini's party frock in scarlet pure silk from Scaccioli of Italy. In the shops in the New Year, price around £216.



Photographs taken by Harry Kerr at a recent showing of British Designer fashion in our embassy in Paris. Hair for each of the eight capsule collections by Leonard.

Finding the mind's construction in the dress?

It has always seemed to me that one of the greatest problems facing those who seek to protect us from that by which we may be shocked, in whatever medium, is that shockability is such a diverse and highly personalized reaction. Take the pop song currently going the rounds of our house. "Long ago, high on a mountain in Mexico, lived a young (one is it poor?) 'stephen' boy. Angeloh met a young girl and he loved her son. Rich was she, in a very high family. Worse is to come. 'Angeloh knew it could never be'—the children warble blithely, going on to relate how Angeloh and whoever then commit suicide.

Now, though naturally innocent, easily intelligent and perceptive, as it happens the children do not care a hoot about this poignant duo, and much prefer a recent spout of the record which began in Long Ago, with a chip-shop in Walthamstow (I think) etc, in which the hero rides his motor bike down the high street like Barry Sheene.

On the other hand I found it impossible to be shocked by the Platform Evening at the DCA last week which was called Dressing for Pleasure. I promised Allen Jones, who did not turn up, and changing facilities for those wishing to model their own clothing, their preferences. Maybe it was the inspiration of the chairperson or the destruction of half the panel asking to be excused to go to the last and half the audience walking out or the almost total

inaudibility of everyone, but after a half-hour film show Dressing for Pleasure which exposed (the right word, I think) the interests of those who like whips, chains, black leather, mackintosh clothing (Charles must be turning in his grave) or that made in rubber, complete with enough zips to keep the rain out of a boy scouts jamboree. I was singularly turned off.

I was, however, interested. Chairperson said he waited for the day when everyone would walk around, every day, in what is usually regarded as fetish clothing. Just as I was musing in my book that surely that is the secret, the double life aspect of dressing up in this bizarre—and sometimes dangerous—garb the man from Capital Radio said just that. I thought Jordan, who runs a shop in Kings Road called Sex and has her hair gummed up into spikes like a crown of thorns, seemed both articulate and exemplified the very practical attitude women have exerted over the centuries towards male quirks. Dressed in a powder pink jersey, she said that she had not come in her normal rubber gear because her overlong fingernails had punctured her stockings.

Most interesting of all though was John Surcliffe, who runs a manufacturing organization ("We won't make anything which causes great physical pain to your wife or girlfriend") the initials are mine, and a magazine called *Attarone*, from 10A Dryden Street, Drury Lane, WC2, telephone 01-636 0150. Mr Surcliffe appeared in the film in uncompromisingly dread black vinyl and fastening, but seated on a portion of an unexceptionable three piece suit which might well have come from Burkers. He then appeared in the flesh, rather than in the skin as one might say, on the platform looking sensational in a pinned-together riven pink taffeta frock. I actually think that the assimilation of a potentially vindictive style into the everyday wardrobe is one of the most dazzling things about a civilized and mature society—look what St Laurent did for denim. We were together to launch a new perfume from Pierre Cardin, called, wait for it, Cardin, in a galore of show-biz bobs which was not quite what I had expected. Never mind, I re-meet the delightful Victor Spenni, who keeps telling me he is Welsh, and found out that Diana Dors is both very funny and very intelligent. In Cardin's suit from Concorde, Australia, the Far East. You name it. Also, his new perfume travel just as fast...

The Crown then said that in any event the income was not partnership income and thus did not arise from "possessions out of the United Kingdom". It was conceded that the partnership agreement on its true construction, did not entitle exploiting the taxpayer's activities but only the activities of persons other than the taxpayer. That argument failed; the words "not" were completely general and did not cover my such construction.

It was further submitted that as the objects of the partnership were to carry on not a trade or a business but a profession and as

Law Report November 30 1977

Part-time firemen can claim redundancy pay

Bullock v. Merseyside County Council

Before Mr Justice Kilner Brown, Mr M. L. Clement-Jones and Ms F. Smith

Part-time firemen are "employed" when on stand-by waiting to be called to the fire station, and time spent on stand-by can be included when aggregating the total period of their employment for the purposes of calculating their entitlement to redundancy payments and compensation for unfair dismissal.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal allowed an appeal by Mr Neville Bullock, a retained fireman, of Haydock from a decision of a Liverpool industrial tribunal that he had no jurisdiction to hear his claim for a redundancy payment and unfair dismissal compensation because he had not been employed for a sufficient number of hours each week.

Mr Anthony Thompson for Mr Bullock; Ms Caroline Aitken for the claimant.

MR JUSTICE KILNER BROWN,

said that the reorganization of local government in 1974 made many part-time firemen redundant.

The tribunal was asked,

whether it had

any jurisdiction to hear his claim.

The industrial tribunal had taken the view that hours on stand-by should not count when calculating hours worked in a normal working week. But the statutory provisions used the word "employed" not hours worked.

The industrial tribunal had

been misled by words used

in "Promote Casting and

Machining Ltd v. Morris" (1977) 1 C.R. 75, where it was held that a person was "employed" within paragraph 9 (1) (f) of Schedule 1 to the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 when he was called out to deal with an emergency.

That decision, however, was not intended

to be of universal application.

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SPORT

Cricket

Unexpected success of Indians gives Test an added edge

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Melbourne, Nov 30

The rift created by Mr Packer's appearance on the cricketing scene is well illustrated in that three Australian teams will take the field at the same time on Friday. There will be the official tour, playing in the first Test match against India at Brisbane; the one calling itself World Series Cricket in Australian XI, which takes on World Series Cricket West Indians in the first so-called "Super Test" here in Melbourne and another Australian XI also flying the WSC flag which meets a "World XI" at Rockingham, 250 miles north of Brisbane.

There is no doubt which is the stronger of the three sides, and it is not the official one. With the two Chappells, Lillee and Marsh playing for him, Mr Packer's team could be expected to beat Bobby Simpson's, possibly the only team to be playing in their first Test match: only Simpson (52), Thomson (22), and Coster (nine), have played in more than three Tests. They have not, however, won a Test since 1970.

Mr Packer's team is of course in the shadow of doubt, that for the moment at any rate, the fortunes of the Test team at Brisbane are being followed with the keenest interest. The Rockingham XI, which is the remnant of the Australian team in the Packer party, is of no particular consequence, though it contains Walters at the middle of the order.

These are crucial days for all factions. The rebels are the most numerous of a split crowd. They are known to be concerned that so few people have so far been to watch them. In an effort to persuade the Australian public of a genuine cricket here, there, Mr Packer's Australians have asked not to travel on the same bus as Mr Packer's West Indians. No such buskiness is necessary up in Brisbane, where the official team of Indians, who have won their first eight matches, has given the first Test match an added edge.

The result there is likely to depend on the pitch, with the Indians' spinners having to find something as much to their liking as the one on which they beat Queensland last weekend. There are two schools of thought about how Australians would react to an Indian victory in this first Test match. Some say they would



Miller... three for 14 from six overs.

Two wickets fall in Miller's first over

Karachi, Nov 30.—Geoffrey Miller, Derbyshire's off-spin bowler, who gleaned only 10 wickets in his first 10 Tests, last winter took two in his first over when England opened their tour of Pakistan on a rain-affected pitch here today. Miller, who ended the day with three victims, finished off the Pakistanis' Shafiq Ahmed and Muzaffar Nazar, had put on 37 in 90 minutes for the Pakistanis' Cricket Board Patron's XI.

His second ball accounted for Muzaffar, while the ball after had Baroos Rashed picked up a short leg by Edmonds. At the close of the first day of the three-day match, the Patron's XI were 100 for two and half hours' play.

The state of the pitch produced a predictable response from Brearley, England's captain, when he won the toss. He put his team in and, although Shafiq and Muzaffar survived against the quick bowlers, who found the pitch too slow, the batsmen were soon struggling when spin was introduced. First Edmonds, then Miller, bowled and then Miller took his place.

His second ball tempted Muzaffar to sweep, but he missed and the ball soared some 12 feet in the air off the front pad before crashing gently into his left stump. Baroos' dismissal was more conventional. He pushed forward at a turning ball, and Miller scooped up a catch off the full length of the bat.

Later, Edmonds was struck on the jaw when Javed Miandad swept at Miller, the blow loosening some of his teeth. Just before the close, Miller picked up his 10th wicket when Javed completed his 10th consecutive over-trapped leg-before. Miller's final analysis was three for 14 from six overs.

PATRON'S XI First Innings

Shafiq Ahmed, not out, 10; Baroos Rashed, 2; Edmonds, 6; Javed Miandad, 14; J. Miller, 0; Extras (10) 10; Total (5 wkt) 100.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-37; 2-37.

BOWLING: 1st: Miller, 3-10; 2nd: Miller, 6-14; 3rd: Miller, 6-14.

VERNSON'S POOLS, LIVERPOOL

Football

Kettering to play FA Cup tie again

Tisbury's appeal against the disqualification of Lee Glover of Kettering to play in their FA Cup first round match last Saturday has been upheld and the FA have ordered the game to be replayed next Monday at Tisbury. Kettering won the original game 1-0, but Tisbury appealed on the grounds that Glover had not received the administrative clearance confirmation made by the FA 14 days earlier. The former Charlton and Leicester player, who was only on the field

for 10 minutes, has been with the Southern League side since September. He also played against Kettering in the previous round but an FA spokesman said: "There was no question of making this retrospective. It was just hard luck on Tisbury. We regard this as an administrative slip up by Kettering. They have openly played Glover since their signed him." Tisbury's secretary Geoffrey Paskay said: "It was the only thing the FA could do bearing

in mind the player had played in the previous round, but for very good reason. The Kettering chairman, Mick Jones, and the club in view of the massive debts they have, I was talking to their chairman and he was obviously banking on a cup run to help ease this debt of about £160,000."

Mr Paskay added: "They will have themselves again in the next round." Tisbury's chairman, Michael Clarke, was off for kick-off in the original tie, he has been dismissed by the Isthmian League Club.

A favourable draw is still not a passport

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

England, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland were yesterday drawn together in the same European championship qualifying group. It was announced in Rome. The other two countries in a group that England should consider a springboard to better days are Denmark and Bulgaria.

The first meeting of the Irish team, in October 1971, could present some difficulties although yesterday the president of the Football Association of Ireland, Frank Davis, said in Dublin: "It is tremendous to be in company with those who are not yet qualified for the World Cup preliminary games."

Yugoslavia, Romania, Spain, Soviet Union, Greece, and Austria, the other members of the group, are in good or bad because of the position situation."

Scotland, the only home country to have qualified for next summer's World Cup, will compete with England and we are delighted to be playing the north.

We have had tentative discussions in the past about playing a match but it never got off the ground. Neither association could agree on a date.

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Ronald Butt

Will the Lib-Lab pact give Mr Steel a social democratic future?

The Council of the Liberal Party has expressed its alarm at the way Mr Steel's Lib-Lab pact is working. It has decided to summon a special Liberal assembly if proportional representation is defeated in the Bill for European direct elections as a consequence of the failure of a substantial majority of Labour MPs to support it.

What is more, it was only by a narrow majority that the council defeated a motion to demand that the Lib-Lab pact be ended, or renegotiated here and now.

Despite this warning, it is unlikely that any number of Labour MPs that could reasonably be described as "substantial" will support the desired regional list system, even though Mr Callaghan himself will personally guarantee in the direction of his pact with Mr Steel by doing so. The system likely to be adopted is first-past-the-post.

As such this will not be a resigning matter for Mr Steel. Nor will it make him renounce the pact. Indeed, the only thing that could impel him to resign would be if his party in its assembly then voted to end the pact which is now thelynch of his policies and his parliamentary colleagues endorsed this decision. Mr Steel's determination to keep his party firmly locked into its present social democratic role is paramount.

Before looking at the implications of this, it is worth itemizing the precise nature of the complaints about the pact since these are so substantial as to illuminate just how remarkable is Mr Steel's attitude to it, against every obstacle.

First, in the absence of major policy-making (not even the Government's policy on small businesses) can genuinely be ascribed to Liberal influence. Most important, the Liberals have not got what they wanted on either devolution or proportional representation to Europe, and have had to stomach it.

Secondly, the moderation of the Labour Government is palpable, the consequence of the lack of a Labour majority rather than the influence of the Liberals. In practice the role of the Liberals, as Labour sees it, is simply to keep the Government in office with the hope of winning an absolute majority for much less moderate policies after the next election, after



which the Liberals can be defeated.

Finally, the Liberals have to face the fact that, for all these reasons, they now appear to very many of their former voters as not, after all, a genuine third force, but rather as an outcrop of Labour's social democratic wing.

In such a predicament, the Liberals may well seek to force Mr Steel to break the pact. In some ways, it would be tactically convenient moment to do so. With the Scottish Nationalists still sustaining the Government over devolution, there would be a clear-cut general election when "Liberal support" was withdrawn and, in theory at least, the Liberals might have an interval in which to re-establish themselves as an independent party, and one with policies other than the Lib-Lab pact.

Bur Mr Steel will defend the pact to the death, and a new Liberal leader will not be easy to find with three ex-leaders still on the Liberal bench. I suppose it is possible that Mr Grimond, who wrote a scathing critical attack on the Lib-Lab pact in the Daily Mail, this week, and implicitly (in a Mark Anthony sort of way) attacked Mr Steel's leadership as well.

But the odds are still that Mr Steel will be able to carry on with the pact, until the next election which he and the

Liberals would fight "independently" but on the sort of terms which would enable the pact to be renewed afterwards if the Tories failed to win an overall majority.

What is significant is that Mr Steel is leading the Liberals towards what looks like a semi-permanent arrangement with Labour which has an uncanny resemblance to the role the German Liberals (the FDP) have in keeping in power the German Socialists (SPD)—the only difference being that the German socialists are much less left-wing than the British. Of course, there are difficulties. The FDP has, for instance, a record of participation in post-war German governments which it has enjoyed as a result of an electoral system that normally gives it over 30 seats. This governmental experience gives the FDP an aura of "real" politics, the British Liberals lack. Nevertheless, what the FDP has failed to do with all its opportunities and advantages is highly instructive.

The FDP has an old, though precarious history going back to the days of Imperial Germany. Then, however, and also during the subsequent Weimar period, the German Liberals were haunted by disunity. Since the war, the FDP has claimed to represent a third force between the two major parties that predominate in

German politics—the Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU) who are more or less conservative, and the Social Democrats (SPD) who are more or less Labour.

Yet it has been in practice almost impossible for the FDP to establish itself as a truly independent third force. With both the CDU/CSU and SPD accepting Germany as a social market economy—that is, a capitalist society tempered by various modifications of collectivism—the difference between the two major parties has become in many ways a matter of emphasis. What then is the role of the intermediate group to be?

Even in the early post-war years, the FDP could never obtain the support of more than an average of about 10 per cent of the German electorate despite the special advantages it obtained from the electoral system and from its appeal to those (mainly middle class) Germans who, while rejecting socialism, were reluctant to accept the CDU/CSU because of its confessional title.

As far, the FDP were, quite naturally, the allies of Adenauer's Christian Democrats in government against an SDP with some Marxist tendencies: after the war, the FDP had become a natural ally for the Social Democrats.

Since 1963, the German Liberals have kept the Social Democrats in power. Even though the CDU has been the largest single party in two elections out of the last three, it has been kept out of office since 1975, by fewer than 10 per cent of the votes.

The FDP is a politically important party because the Social Democrats depend on it for power. But it is also a party which has largely lost its individual identity, and it is now hard to imagine (short of a

seeking to impose total socialism) (even by evolution let alone by revolution) in favour of a non-Marxist liberal democratic democracy. When therefore, the CDU/CSU became the largest single party in 1969, but without an overall majority, it became open to the German Liberals to decide which of the two big parties should form the government.

They put the Social Democrats in power by coalition with them, not only because the SDP had gone "respectable" but because the FDP itself had become much more left-wing. Thus the Social Democrats became the largest party in the country, the CDU/CSU the second, and the FDP the third.

The modern breed of Liberals, British as well as Germans, are basically social democrats, and are the natural allies of the majority party of the left as long as its economy is among the most buoyant in the world. Its currency is rivalled in stability and appreciation value only by a few others such as the Swiss franc and the Japanese yen.

Most important, Hongkong is

the colony's main trading partner, and its economy is the second largest in the world. When the FDP first made common cause with the socialists, it promptly lost nearly half its voters to the CDU, which is what is happening to the British Liberals as a result of their pact.

In 1969, the FDP's poll fell to 5.8 per cent of the total vote, and in 1976, it still commanded less than 8 per cent.

With all the advantages of experience in government, and a proportionate system which has generally given it over 30 seats, the FDP has never broken through to become a major party. Like the British Liberals, it consists of individuals at the apex, and an uncertain consistency in the electorate which has never become popular.

The Liberal Party's pretension that proportionate representation would enable it to build on some kind of popular liberal electorate in the country is pure fantasy, and the German experience is evidence of that. Such a popular constituency does not exist in the present political spectrum.

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Standards of living in Hongkong have risen significantly for the majority of the population over the past decade, and what is considered poverty here is still only what would be considered quite a normal living standard across the border in China. That is mainly why people still try to come from China.

China today is suffering an acute economic crisis. It is questionable whether it will remain a poor country or even succeed in joining the league of truly advanced powers by the end of the century.

Any large loss of revenue from Hongkong would sabotage China's chances of modernization for decades.

If Washington and the other western European powers and the United States began to take a less parochial view of Hongkong—and the same applies to those British civil servants and members of Parliament who think Britain has no valid role here at all.

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A MESSAGE HALF HEARD

There has never been any shortage of prophets and preachers asserting that mankind is moving in the wrong direction, that the pursuit of wealth does not necessarily bring happiness, that a reawakening of moral and spiritual perception is necessary if disaster is to be avoided. From time to time one of these prophets evokes a response which tells as much about the time in which he lives as about the message he brings. Dr Fritz Schumacher, for whom a memorial service was held yesterday in Westminster Cathedral, was such a one. What he preached, as he himself said, derived mainly from the traditional wisdom of mankind, which has always been respected and not ignored. He quoted the *Ion* on the Mount, the teachings of Buddha, and the reminder of R. H. Tawney that "unless industry is to be paralysed by recurrent revolt on the part of outraged human nature it must satisfy criteria which are not purely economic". But he managed to relate his message to very contemporary doubts and fears about the world today. He was a preacher with long experience in the world of economics and industry, and he brought to set the spiritual and the practical in a way that set up reverberations beyond his immediate circle of admirers.

To appreciate him as a significant contemporary figure does not necessarily mean agreeing with everything he said. To some extent he encapsulated wisdom that was bedevilled conventional anyway: to some extent he hoped for changes in society which at present lie beyond realism. Nevertheless, he contributed a great deal. He wrote his book *Small is Beautiful* at the moment when advanced industrial societies were entering a period of extreme self-doubt about their own viability and the validity as a model for developing countries. Hopes of overcoming poverty, crime, alienation and unemployment

MR FRASER'S MISCALCULATED ELECTION

McFraser has not yet lost the federal election so confidently called five weeks ago, and Mr Gough Whitlam has not yet won even though yesterday he died as though he had. Certainly Mr Fraser has seen in the last by-elections and opinion polls his party's majorities soak away like storm water in a billing. As nobody expected such a swing—not even Mr Whitlam thought at first Mr Fraser was pulling a fast one over him—Australia's politicians, political pundits and pollsters alike blame upon the extraordinary "volatility" of the electorate. This enhanced volatility has been noted, with a comparable disapproval, in other democracies. Politicians seem to feel that they have somehow been double-crossed when voters suddenly turn their trend in opinion polls when no election impends.

They should think again. There is no mystery. Professor Elton Mayo, the industrial psychologist, established that when an experiment on human beings is carried out the experiment itself enters into the results—particularly if human beings know they are being experimented with. A general election, and particularly a premature general election, is very definitely into that category of experiment. An election called to capitalize on an advantage, or on a mere stab, or unashamedly to prevent a less propitious time for appeal for another period of time is very risky experiment indeed when press and media

Guarding the otter

Mr I. J. Linn was interested to read the letter in your issue of November 23, concerning the Government's proposal to make the otter a protected species. My colleagues and I here at Exeter have been studying wild otters for many years, and would like to no one in our respect as for the otter as one of Britain's most splendid wild creatures. Further, we would wholeheartedly support any measure which we felt would lead to a general increase in the number of otters, and to their return to areas where they have become very rare

indeed. It may be argued that protecting the otter may do a little good, and will do no real harm. I do not agree. The good is minimal; the harm is real. As well as creating an unwarranted sense of euphoria about the future of the otter, the placing of this species on the "protected" list will bring that list into disrepute. The species at present protected really are endangered; the otter is not, on the whole.

What is now needed is the means to provide limited protection for the otter within those areas where it really is endangered, and legislation to control the use of our bodies of fresh water so that the otter gets a fair crack of the whip, and to ensure that the so-called "needs" of some people do not take automatic precedence. I trust that these points will be borne in mind when the matter is debated in Parliament.

I. J. LINN
University of Exeter,
Department of Biological Sciences,
Prince of Wales Road,
Exeter.

through continuous economic growth have been disappointed. The fact that more people are living longer and more secure lives than at any time in history has come to seem less important than that the beneficiaries of industrial development seem less happy and fulfilled than they were expected to be while the majority of the world's population is excluded even from the benefits that are available. Work for many people is still degrading drudgery; leisure is not necessarily the most satisfying aim in life; above all, the scale of things—especially of industrial, political and bureaucratic structures—is felt to be overpowering the individual.

Dr Schumacher did not advocate smallness as the answer to everything. The title of his book has misled many people. What he was talking about was the appropriate size for different structures—some large, some small. He concentrated on smallness, he said, only to counteract the idolatry of giantism. Were there an idolatry of smallness he would have exerted his influence in the other direction. "The fundamental problem is to achieve smallness within large organizations," he wrote. People can be themselves only in small comprehensible groups. It was not, therefore, the abandonment of economic growth or the escape to the pastoral simplicity of the commune that he was advocating, but a spiritual "homecoming" that would bring a qualitative measure to bear on the idea of growth. Modern technology, he felt, was pursuing size and violence in defiance of all laws of natural harmony.

His disapproval was fundamentally moral but it contributed to thinking in several very practical and important areas. His ideas on size have become part of the common currency of discussion on a range of issues from housing through industry to devolution and the European Community. His warnings that natural resources are limited and need to be conserved have almost dissolved into conventional wisdom. Above all, his

would give a majority in the Lower House (but not in the Senate) to Mr Whitlam, seems less significant in terms of Australian politics than the surprising percentages of 11 to 18 per cent notched up in the recent by-elections and in the Queensland state elections by Mr Chipp's unspecified but undoubtedly alternative offer. His candidates' preferences may decide the result which seems likely to be narrow; his party might even win a seat or two.

It may be argued that it would be better for Australians to stick to Mr Fraser's more cautious economic and monetary policies, even if their author perceives that they will take more time than he reckoned, and a world upswing as well, to work. But on the evidence the voters see little real choice especially now that Mr Fraser has a ministerial resignation to explain away almost as much as Mr Whitlam had in his time. The voters' disgust should worry Australian politicians, even in the midst of their enjoyable slanging matches: it bodes them all no good. And not only Australian politicians. The so-called volatility of electorates is not unreasoned but the opposite: it is a judgment by thinking men and women endowed with intellect and with free will upon the failures and unacceptable behaviour of those in office. Among those failures are not only mismanagement of public affairs, or miscalculations which are nobody's fault, but the arrogance of taking ordinary people for granted.

A European 'Brookings'

From Dr Frank A. Heller

Sir, I would support Mr Nind's reservations about a European or indeed a British "Brookings" (letter, November 25) and could cite other examples, many from my long association with South America, to show that institutions are not easily imported from overseas. However, this should not be used as an excuse to do nothing.

The case for a British or European centre for high level policy studies should be carefully and sympathetically considered. What is wrong with the current debate is largely due to the unfortunate use of the term "Brookings" which might lead us to concentrate exclusively on economics and political science on the American pattern.

When Professor Dahrendorf started his initiative he spoke of the need to diagnose the British malaise, and even eminent economists like Professor Caves of Harvard, political analysts like Sir Alan Schlesinger or multi-disciplinary inquiries like the notorious Hudson Report have told us clearly that our problems are social and even psychological as much as economic or political. We must therefore strive to get rid of the narrow "Brookings" image and accept that a wide range of social science disciplines should be brought to bear on policy studies. Yours truly,

FRANK A. HELLER
Tavistock Institute of Human Relations,
Belsize Lane, NW3,
November 25.

ideas on the value of intermediate technology for developing countries are now those of the World Bank, the Indian Government, and many others. He was not the only person but he was among the first to see the dangers and the absurdities of trying to drive developing countries straight into massive urban industrialization. As founder of the Intermediate Technology Development Group and adviser to many governments his work in this field has already had wide and lasting results.

The main question that remains over his work is how far it offers practical as well as spiritual guidance for developed societies. That his basic message is relevant needs no more proof than the growing number of people who show interest in it, from President Carter downwards. The problem is that many of the steps that would be necessary to turn it into practical politics are not easily compatible with democracy and a free economy. As President Carter is already finding, it is very difficult to make people conserve energy when there is in fact no shortage. By the time the shortage arrives the market will raise prices to the point where conservation becomes an economic necessity.

Dr Schumacher will then be vindicated to the extent that it will probably prove possible to make much larger savings in the use of energy than most people now realize is possible. Sweden's success in increasing energy productivity already points the way, and suggests, as Dr Schumacher would have agreed, that crisis can still be avoided. Waiting for market forces means, of course, that the adjustment will be more rapid and uncomfortable than if his exhortations could influence behaviour now, but his emotional disposition may have been too resistant, too modern trends, too pre-industrial, for him to have the practical effect in the developed countries that he has had in those countries still able to try other roads to development.

Government pay policy

From Dr Harold Booth

Sir, Surely, Mr Callaghan cannot be surprised at the discontent, even bitterness, arising from a pay "policy" which restricts the public sector to 10 per cent whilst allowing groups in the private sector to exceed 10 per cent. It is common knowledge that during Phases one and two, many groups in the private sector were able to improve their living standards by devices such as free health insurance, job regrading, improved car allowances, increased overtime payments, etc. Now we have the self-financing productivity deals, many of which (as indicated in a recent "Tonight" programme) are bogus, and which again favour the private sector. As a university teacher, I would have been willing not only to defer the correction of our long standing pay anomaly, but also to accept a 10 per cent increase for TUC if this had been a statutory limit set by a firm government, and in spite of TUC opposition. The present "policy" is clearly unjust; moreover, for many workers, it piles win a seat or two.

It may be argued that it would be better for Australians to stick to Mr Fraser's more cautious economic and monetary policies, even if their author perceives that they will take more time than he reckoned, and a world upswing as well, to work. But on the evidence the voters see little real choice especially now that Mr Fraser has a ministerial resignation to explain away almost as much as Mr Whitlam had in his time. The voters' disgust should worry Australian politicians, even in the midst of their enjoyable slanging matches: it bodes them all no good. And not only Australian politicians. The so-called volatility of electorates is not unreasoned but the opposite: it is a judgment by thinking men and women endowed with intellect and with free will upon the failures and unacceptable behaviour of those in office. Among those failures are not only mismanagement of public affairs, or miscalculations which are nobody's fault, but the arrogance of taking ordinary people for granted.

Yours sincerely,

HAROLD BOOTH,
8 Regate Drive,
Attenborough,
Nottingham.

From Professor H. J. Perry

Sir, Why does the present Government, like most of its predecessors since the War, persist in perpetuating the myth that it is operating an incomes policy? With the possible exception of Aubrey Jones's short-lived but notably successful Prices and Incomes Board of 1967-70, we have never had an incomes policy. What we have had is a series of incomes limitation policies—"guiding lights", "green lights", fixed percentages or fixed amounts of cash per week which, like the present "guidelines", are euphemisms for absolute maxima in pay increases.

There has been, with the one exception of the PIB, no attempt at a real incomes policy, ie one which would try to determine on the merits of each case what each occupation was worth to the community, and to persuade the workers in that group and the rest of the public to accept that valuation.

The folly of an incomes limitation policy is that

(1) it is an injustice to those groups which were ill-treated or cut off in mid-negotiation in the last round of pay settlements, or whose position has since been unfairly squeezed by inflation and the arbitrary operation of cash limits (I make no mention of university teachers but of the men, the workers and other skilled or responsible workers

who eudger a feeling that all that is necessary has been done and that the otter is now safe. This is simply not so. What the otter needs, if it is to return to anything like its previous numbers, is good clean water, plenty of secluded riverine and lake-side habitat, and peace and quiet to enjoy them.

To provide that would involve society in paying a high price. The activities of many people and organizations (farmers, anglers, boaters, water authorities, huntmen, industrial and domestic polluters, to name but a few) would have to be firmly curtailed. Is society prepared to pay that price? That is the real question which the Government must face up to.

It may be argued that protecting the otter may do a little good, and will do no real harm. I do not agree. The good is minimal; the harm is real. As well as creating an unwarranted sense of euphoria about the future of the otter, the placing of this species on the "protected" list will bring that list into disrepute. The species at present protected really are endangered; the otter is not, on the whole.

What is now needed is the means to provide limited protection for the otter within those areas where it really is endangered, and legislation to control the use of our bodies of fresh water so that the otter gets a fair crack of the whip, and to ensure that the so-called "needs" of some people do not take automatic precedence. I trust that these points will be borne in mind when the matter is debated in Parliament.

I. J. LINN
University of Exeter,
Department of Biological Sciences,
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Exeter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Interim devolution for Ulster

From Dr David Morrison

Sir, Your editorial of November 21 discusses the concept of "interim devolution" for Northern Ireland and Roy Mason has since laid down principles on which the concept should be based.

One of these principles, as the term "interim devolution" implies, is that the arrangement should be temporary and should envisage progress towards full legislative devolution. To establish political institutions which are from the outset understood to be temporary is a doubtful constitutional principle. To do so at this time in Northern Ireland when a nationalist/unionist majority, which were devolved to the Westminster Parliament, existed and by convention a local government was established, which were derived from a general sense of grievance on the part of Catholics against Protestant majorities in Northern Ireland. One prominent figure in the Movement speaking in the Conway Hall, London on February 25, 1957 summarized the Movement's demands as follows:

"I must demand for my constituents in Belfast the same rights and privileges as are enjoyed by those in Coventry, Wades, Glasgow or any other part of the United Kingdom... So let us be quite clear what I am asking for is that British standards as they apply in the island of Great Britain should be made applicable in Northern Ireland."

That figure was Gerry Fitt, now the leader of the SDLP. Likewise, today, there is every reason to believe that Northern Ireland had "British Standards" in central and local government institutions the Catholic community would be generally happy with.

A regional authority could and should be established without delay. Given that it would have clearly defined and necessary functions to perform, it is much more likely to lead to practical cooperation between Protestants and Catholics than an elaborate parliamentary institution, especially one that from the outset is described as interim.

Yours etc,
DAVID MORRISON,
Belfast 15,
November 26.

Modernization of the Lord's Prayer

From the Bishop of Durham

Sir, I do not mind being criticized for something I have actually done, but I am afraid I cannot remain silent in the face of the mixture of ignorance and misunderstanding displayed by your Special Correspondent in the issue of November 21.

Since 1972, when the Church of England authorized the first of its Series 3 alternative services, these have contained a single version of the Lord's Prayer in modern language, though it has been and remains permissible for the traditional version to be used if preferred. The request has recently been made that when these services are incorporated into the Alternative Service Book in 1980, both versions of the prayer should be printed within the Series 3 sections of the book.

As Chairman of the working party responsible for the publication of the book, it was my duty to test the opinion of the Synod on this point, which I did in the name of the standing committee by proposing a formal motion. The effect of this motion was to maintain the status quo, but it provided an opportunity which otherwise would not have existed for those who felt that both versions should be printed to put forward their case.

I spoke neither for nor against the motion, and concentrated entirely on explaining its significance. What I said was fully reported in the Church press, and could easily have been discovered by your correspondent if he had bothered to check it. In the course of the debate I explicitly welcomed an amendment which, while preserving the principle that only one version should be printed, would have left it to the Synod to decide whether this should be the old or new version until a later debate; this was heavily defeated, and the Synod, without any prompting, voted on the original motion in favour of the status quo.

That figure was Gerry Fitt, now the leader of the SDLP. Likewise, today, there is every reason to believe that Northern Ireland had "British Standards" in central and local government institutions the Catholic community would be generally happy with.

As Chairman of the working party responsible for the publication of the book, it was my duty to test the opinion of the Synod on this point, which I did in the name of the standing committee by proposing a formal motion. The effect of this motion was to maintain the status quo, but it provided an opportunity which otherwise would not have existed for those who felt that both versions should be printed to put forward their case.

I spoke neither for nor against the motion, and concentrated entirely on explaining its significance. What I said was fully reported in the Church press, and could easily have been discovered by your correspondent if he had bothered to check it. In the course of the debate I explicitly welcomed an amendment which, while preserving the principle that only one version should be printed, would have left it to the Synod to decide whether this should be the old or new version until a later debate; this was heavily defeated, and the Synod, without any prompting, voted on the original motion in favour of the status quo.

These are the facts. If Mr Higham wishes to use them as an excuse for a personal attack on myself and a general sneer at the episcopate, I submit that so doing he tells us more about himself than about the bishops. Of course I am aware of the strong emotions aroused by the whole subject of liturgical revision, but the undeniable truth is that the overwhelming proportion of the Church's electors representatives are in favour of it. I am, however, off Mr Higham a crumb of comfort. If he cares to visit Durham Cathedral he will find there a traditional liturgy in all its glory.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DUNELM:
Auckland Castle,
Bishop Auckland,
County Durham.
November 28.

words has become much more acceptable; in fact the first eight lines would seem wholly admirable.

It is difficult to see how one can readily prefer "Our Father which art (Wishart) in heaven", or even "who art in heaven" to "Our Father in heaven"; or lament the substitution of "sins" for "trespasses" either as regards sense or euphony. "Trespasses" these days relates to private property; while the collective sabbath of the Westminister Parliament.

Nevertheless the remainder of the modern version is less happy.

"Do not bring us in the time of trial" may be better than "Lead us not into temptation"—the Cockney boy's "Thames (Police) Station"; but it still is not right.

Furthermore the inversion to "For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours . . ." is "change for the sake of change" and far from being an improvement.

If I may be permitted to extend this criticism to the rest of the Series 3 service; there are a number of examples of unhelpful revisionism and, indeed, ugly English. Like "And so to with you". The worst example, however, is "All things come from you, and of your own do we give you". The latter clause is scarcely English at all. Am I alone in finding it painful to have to address the Almighty in this travesty of the language? And yet the authors of Series 3 have yet to compose the lovely prayer for the end of the service: "Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home."

Does this not show, Sir, that the spirit of Cranmer is still alive and that it is possible to write good modern liturgical English?

MARTIN PRESCOTT,
Chestnut,
53 Pinehill Road,
Crowthorne,
Berkshire 29.

From Mr B. W. Robinson

Sir, May I congratulate you on the publication today of the excellent article under the heading "Against the Modernization of the Lord's Prayer". It is heartening to hear such an able and authoritative voice raised against the progressive vulgarization of our Liturgy. The basic objection to "Series 3" and other "progressive" changes is that they substitute something pedestrian and second-rate for something uplifting and sublime. We sometimes put Shakespeare in modern dress, but, so far as I am aware, we have not yet pursued to rewrite his text in Old English. Cranmer was just as good at his job as Shakespeare was at his, and deserves the same respect.

Beauty, whether of music or ritual, or language, is one of God's most precious gifts to us, which we should offer back to Him in our worship. To reject it, to debase it, or to replace it with something inferior is a kind of blasphemy, and puts one in mind of Daniel's prophecy that "the Abomination that maketh desolate set up".

It is significant that economic expansion was at its lowest level when capital export was at its height. Britain experienced economic progress comparable to that of our competitors only in periods of protection (safeguarding and McKenna duties and Ottawa). The lesson is there to be learnt.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 30: His Excellency Monsieur Jens Christensen was received in audience by The Queen this morning and presented the Letters of Recall of his present and former powers of credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Denmark to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Monsieur Pauline Kien (Minister Counsellor), Monsieur Serge Vagner Blond (Minister Counsellor), Monsieur Harry Agerbak (Minister Plenipotentiary), His Highness Colonel Prince Geert of Denmark (Defence Attaché), Monsieur Erik Thor (Commercial Counsellor), Monsieur Jan Marcusen (Commercial Counsellor), Monsieur Ulrik Andreass Fedspel (First Secretary), and Monsieur Erik Hedes (First Secretary).

Monsieur Christensen had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Sir Michael Fallon (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty, was present and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr G. C. Crossley was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Holy See.

Mr Justice Wood had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court of Justice when The Queen conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood.

The Right Hon James Callaghan, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury), had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning received

the Marquess of Lothian (Lord Warden of the Stannaries) and Mr Anthony Gray (Secretary and Keeper of the Records, Duchy of Cornwall).

His Royal Highness, Chairman, opened and toured an exhibition of Royal Cartoons in aid of The Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal at the Press Club, International Press Centre, Strand Lane, EC4.

The Prince of Wales was present at luncheon with Senior Officers of A Division Metropolitan Police at New Scotland Yard.

His Royal Highness, President, this evening presented the Royal Aero Club's Prizes for 1977 and the Kremer Prize at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 30: The Duke of Gloucester attended The Evening News British Film Awards at the New London Theatre, Drury Lane, and presented the Gold Medal for the best British Film this evening.

Major John Griffin was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
November 30: The Duke of Kent, President of The Society of Antiquaries, this morning attended a meeting of the Committee of the Council at Baden Powell House.

His Royal Highness, President of the Imperial War Museum, this afternoon presided at the Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

His Royal Highness this evening attended the Professional Wrestling Festival at the Royal Albert Hall in aid of the Silver Jubilee Fund.

Captain James Greenfield was in attendance.

THATCHER HOUSE LODGE
NOVEMBER 30: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at a reception in the occasion of the opening of the Burlington International Fine Art Fair at the Royal Academy of Arts.

The Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

The Queen will open the extension of the Piccadilly Line to Heathrow and travel on the Underground from Heston Cross to Heathrow Central on December 16.

The Prince of Wales, as chairman of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal Fund, will visit Greater Manchester on December 14.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of the Dowager Marchioness of Tweeddale will be held at St Paul's Church, Strand, on Tuesday, December 5, at noon.

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"Rotterdam—a street scene", by Willem Koekkoek, which fetched £20,000.

£71,385 for John Evelyn sale

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

NOVEMBER 30: Prince Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at a reception in the occasion of the opening of the Burlington International Fine Art Fair at the Royal Academy of Arts.

The Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

Spanish mystical work of 1589 in Evelyn's hands was sold for £120,000 (estimate £150 to £200). Another bargain was Gallo's *Le vinti giorni dell'agricoltura*, of 1623, with fine woodcut illustrations, bound in Paris for Evelyn, made £10,000 (estimate £250 to £400).

One of the more unusual lots

was a group of 11 seventeenth-century pamphlets bound up for John Evelyn in £7,000 (estimate £1,000 to £1,200) to Quaritch.

Another was a poignant

eight-page emblem: *Recensione di Partimento, for the suppression of such of the stage-coaches and caravans now travelling upon the roads of England as are inconvenient to the common people*, made £20,000 (estimate £14,000 to £16,000). Two good volumes by Sir Thomas Browne, *Artemis and Phoebus*, were sold at £2,000 (estimate £1,200 to £2,200).

There were several interesting

German and French works.

Baron M. D. Queller's *Le*

curiosum (£10,000 to £12,000) but his *Ericks-Ritter*

was unsold at £4,200 (estimate £10,000 to £12,000).

Ader's *Le*

curiosum (£10,000 to £12,000)

and a copy of *Le*

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One of the objects entered in

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John Foord
CHARTERED SURVEYORSTHE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWSJohn Foord
PLANT AND
MACHINERY
VALUERS

Bank quells fears over interest rates with signal to hold MLR

By John Whitmore

Financial Correspondent

The Bank of England yesterday moved to a well-grounded increase in interest rates by informing the discount house that it had no wish to see a further rise in its own minimum lending rate.

This action had an immediate and dramatic effect on financial markets. Three month Treasury bills, the key to minimum lending rate, dropped back from 6.6 per cent to close at 6.5 1/32 per cent, a level consistent with MLR remaining unchanged at 7 per cent tomorrow.

Other money market rates also fell back. Three month interbank money, which had risen 8 per cent in early trading eventually finished at 7.1 per cent. Gilts edged stocks which had been up to £1 in early trading quickly erased their morning losses to finish the day with gains of up to £1. And the FT 30 share index, down 4.2 points ahead of the Bank's statement, closed 6.9 points higher at 481.0.

The decision by the Bank to quell fears over interest rates came after the growing uncertainty that had been building up in financial markets late on Tuesday afternoon.

The Bank made it clear to the discount market that it

regarded last week's 2 per cent rise in MLR to 7 per cent as adequately correcting the distortion to the interest rate structure that had occurred earlier in the autumn because of the exceptionally heavy over-supply inflows.

Although the Bank's move was generally welcomed in markets as helpful to calm the markets, there was only limited activity behind the turnaround in the gilt edged market where there is continuing uncertainty about the authorities' ability to resume gilt sales on any great scale.

The Bank's announcement that it wished to see no further rise in MLR for the time being was quickly followed by an announcement that Williams & Glyn's was to raise its base rate from 6 to 7 per cent. Its deposit rate is to go up from 3 to 3.5 per cent.

This means that each of the five London clearing banks now has a different base rate. This may not be beyond the mark, however, Barclays, which has still to make any move from the 6 per cent level, continued to mull over the situation yesterday afternoon. But, assuming that money markets show signs of stability this morning, it seems likely that Barclays will not delay a decision for very much longer.

Financial Editor, page 19

Leyland may seek £50m more to meet cash crisis

By Clifford Webb

Leyland Cars, which lost £1.7m in the first half of the year, is facing another cash flow crisis as a result of mounting losses from internal and external strikes.

So serious is the situation that if the present trend continues it will have to seek another injection of government cash within the next few weeks.

It is only two months since the parent British Leyland group received a £50m loan from the National Enterprise Board. This money—originally intended for capital investment projects—had to be diverted for the day-to-day requirements of the car subunits.

A further £50m tranche was expected next Friday after Mr Michael Edwards, the new chairman, has submitted a review of the group's position and his own plans for rescuing it.

It now seems certain that this money will have to be forthcoming instead of that review and renewed scrutiny by the N.E.B. and the Department of Industry.

This further setback in the long running saga of Leyland Cars is being revealed this week in management briefings to shop steward members of the three-tier participation machinery.

So far the news has been given to the top two tiers—Leyland Cars Joint Management Council and the divisional committees. During the next few days the 34 plant committees will be put in the picture.

Stewards have been told that the company is "pinned on the edge of a precipice". Things began to go wrong during the recent long-running strike at Lucas, together with strikes in other plants such as the one which stopped production of the TR7 sports car and the Dolomite saloon for the past month.

As a result production fell sharply and Leyland are now holding only 22 per cent of the home market compared with more than 30 per cent last year.

The stewards were warned that Leyland could run out of money by the middle of December unless there was a substantial improvement.

Their backing is being sought for urgent steps by management to postpone further capital expenditure projects, reduce overmanning by switching workers to areas where they can be more effective, ending restrictive practices and introducing stricter control of stock.

These stocks include several thousand cars still waiting for components held up by strikes at the Treasury.

In a statement last night, Leyland Cars said: "The purpose of the briefings which are confidential, is to ensure that through the existing participation and communications channels all employees are informed of what we want to do to improve our performance in 1978."

The company refused to disclose details of the crisis as revealed to the shop stewards.

Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of ASTMS, said yesterday the union was

Swan Hunter loses 3 of 7 Polish ships as work is reassigned

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

British Shipbuilders yesterday carried out its planned reassignment of Polish shipbuilding contracts to other yards because of the industrial dispute at Swan Hunter, originally scheduled to build seven 16,500 ton dwt bulk carriers worth £52m.

The company stated that it had been the "expressive and intention" that the ships would go to the Tyneside group. It deeply regretted that this was not possible because of the decision by 1,700 outfitting workers to maintain their overtime ban which had prevented the placing of the contracts.

Further assessment of the most beneficial switching of the contracts is being carried out by British Shipbuilders' executives, and privately there is some hope that these outfitting workers at Swan's will reconsider their decision—which will lead to several hundred redundancies—and a scaling off of the ban coupled with the provision of assurances, would still allow the four contracts to be placed with the Tyneside yards.

Three of the seven ships have so far been reassigned. One has gone to Govan Shipbuilders—already building two 4,500 ton multi-purpose ships for the Poles—whose workers have provided the assurance demanded

Two other ships in the Swan package, said the state company, were being relocated to other northern shipyards. The other yards involved were not disclosed, but industry sources suggested that Sunderland Shipbuilders and Austin & Pickersgill, both of which have modern facilities with

Confirmation of the placing of the berths will be given at the end of the month.

His comments followed a request made at the weekend by Mr Michael Grylls, MP, vice-chairman of the Tory Industry Committee. Mr du Cann explained that the PAC was concerned essentially with investigating the use of public money on issues referred to the committee by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Since the CAG had so far made no report there was no basis for an investigation.

"Obviously the chances of our looking at the use of public money in the shipbuilding industry in the course of the year are good, and I would certainly



Mr. Archie Gilchrist, managing director of Govan, said last night: "Under present market circumstances any order is welcome, but it would much rather have obtained orders in improved circumstances".

Mr. Edward du Cann, MP, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, dashed hopes that the committee would launch an emergency investigation into the terms of the deal.

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"Whether this will result in reduced prices to the customer we cannot say specifically because it is not part of our remit to inquire into prices or margins as such," an Office of Fair Trading spokesman said. But customers will be free to strike their own bargain, it was pointed out.

The office is still discussing with the RFA third party agreements on rates in which in some cases the RHA acts as a negotiating body with a major customer group. Since the association does not always negotiate as such, not all such cases may come within the scope of present negotiations.

Major haulage users like British Steel and the Milk Marketing Board can sometimes find it convenient to set out a national code to what they are prepared to pay. The same can apply to other groups such as quarry owners.

The RHA will continue to advise its members on matters like cost estimation, particularly in relation to the effect of inflation. The office will continue scrutiny of this sort of advice to ensure that it does not become a price-fixing device in a different guise.

So far there have been 700 submissions for possible registering to the office from the various service industry sectors. It has not been found necessary to register 200 of these agreements but a further 200 are now registered, with others still to be considered.

Hauliers will no longer give advice on charges

By Derek Harris

The Road Haulage Association (RHA), which represents some 15,000 private sector hauliers and accounts for more than half the total haulage industry in turnover terms, is to stop recommending scales of charges to members at the end of this year.

After pressure from the Office of Fair Trading the RHA yesterday placed on the Restrictive Trade Practices Register an amended agreement that will scrap its detailed compendium of recommended charges for goods ranging from potatoes to livestock.

"Whether this will result in reduced prices to the customer we cannot say specifically because it is not part of our remit to inquire into prices or margins as such," an Office of Fair Trading spokesman said. But customers will be free to strike their own bargain, it was pointed out.

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Commodity fund talks at deadlock

Insurance brokers fail 'Which' test

By Robin Young

On the day the Insurance Brokers Registration Council is set up to monitor the industry, it gets a scathing report in Money Which? published today by the Consumers' Association.

Mr Ljubomir Sekulic, chairman of the group, said he had informed the president of the conference, which is organized by the United Nations' Conference of Trade and Development (Uncad), that the developing countries had unanimously decided to seek the suspension.

"We shall make a formal motion to this effect in the plenary meeting tomorrow," he said. The negotiating conference is scheduled to end on Friday.

Mr Sekulic blamed the developed countries for the impasse saying: "At the group of 77 was taking this 'serious step' because some developed countries were unwilling even to agree to the fundamental aspect of a common fund."

This was despite the commitments given by the developed countries at Uncad's Nairobi meeting and at the North/South dialogue in Paris last summer.

BPM HOLDINGS LTD

"DOES THE ROAD WIND UPHILL ALL THE WAY?"

The 34th Annual General Meeting of BPM Holdings Limited was held on November 30th, 1977, in Birmingham.

The following are extracts from the circulated statement of the chairman, Sir Michael Clapham, K.B.E.

"While the scene is not entirely dark, either nationally or in our company's affairs, the year 1977 was, as I have indicated, the year of the little that could. The climate for growth, competition was intense and profits were hard to earn. In the circumstances an increase in pre-tax profits of 50% is welcome, and enables us to recommend increasing the dividend by 10%. We cannot regard it as yet being satisfactory, nor looking forward to the year ahead, I can only say that I am prepared to tribute on behalf of the shareholders, to the considerable efforts both by managers and other employees, which enabled the company to move in the direction of a tolerable return on capital.

For year I wrote of the need, in our newspaper activities, to reduce manpower, streamline production methods and complete the introduction of the new technology at Colmore Circus with as little hardship as possible. 1976-77 has been a year of substantial progress in that task. There have been voluntary redundancies, and the considerable sums paid out in compensation have reduced the year's profits. We have also reduced our training programmes, changed people's work and relocations while moving from hot metal to computer-based photo-composition which have been irritating to editorial and production staff, management and, not least, our readers and advertisers. There is still some way to go to complete the change of technology, but in retrospect it has been a year of marked progress.

In all, given the circumstances in our industry, the introduction of the new technology should be taken to a further stage. But it will be a testing period in our industrial relations, as the Government's very necessary pressure to reduce the rate of inflation encounters the resentment built up in a year when prices have risen much faster than net incomes and the anomalies arising from years of rigid controls have become more glaring.

The circulation of the paper, the Birmingham Post & Mail, has shown a significant diminution of last year's downward trend, and in particular the Sandwell Evening Mail showed a good gain in circulation as it did in advertising. Advertising volumes in the other papers did not quite reach the previous year's levels, owing to the depressed state of the retail market.

However, a realistic policy on advertisement rates and cover prices resulted in a substantial increase in revenue, matched by almost equally large increases in newspaper and service costs

and the salaries, wages and salaries of staff.

"West Midland Press has had its best year since moving into the Leamington plant at Wall, brought about mainly by the improvement in advertisement revenue during the second half of the year and the continued tight control on expenditure. ABC Weekly Advertiser Limited once again had a profitable year. London and Westminster Newspapers Limited, our small group, at London, had an excellent year, with record trading results. The London Evening Standard has had a surplus after all financial costs. T. Dillons & Co. Ltd. has had a very good year, as has the company group, showed a small increase in profits to just below the 1976 peak. Profits were held back by the costs of the refitting programme which is now virtually completed, and by the large increase in branch wages resulting from the 5% per cent increase which was given in July 1976 under Phase 1 of the pay policy. There was a net increase of only one in the number of branches during the year, and a new branch is planned for the current year."

The Report and Accounts were adopted.

BPM HOLDINGS LTD

28 Colmore Circus, Birmingham B4 6AX

How the markets moved

Rises

Allied Polymer 61p to 36p
Anglo Am Corp 14p to 22p
Blythers 36p to 34p
CIMI 300 26p to 47p
Bryant Holdings 3p to 36p
Dunlop Holdings 4p to 35p
EMI 6p to 21p
ERF Holdings 5p to 12p
Furdes Witby 18p to 33p

Falls

Ayer Hiltam 5p to 27.5p
EKF of NSW 5p to 30p
Guthrie Corp 3p to 21p
Hays Wharf 5p to 16.5p
Johnson Matthey 3p to 43p
Equities advanced.
Gilt-edged securities reversed
Sterling losses

Dollar premium 98 per cent (effective rate 38.37 per cent)
Sterling gained 22 points to £1.8170. The effective exchange rate index was at 63.5.

On other pages

Business appointments 21
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Bank Base Rates Table 22
Annual Statements: BPM Holdings 17

The Times index: 200.94+1.77
The FT index: 481.0+6.3

THE POUND

Hammeron 'A' 10p to 540p
Jacks W. 6p to 24p
Liberator 11p to 450p
Northeast Expl. 10p to 302p
Oil Exploration 10p to 255p
Photo-Mc Int. 20p to 322p
Reed & Smith 28p to 63p
Smith W.H. 'A' 20p to 780p
Witter T. 30p to 36p

Wines 4p to 203p
Kodak Int. 5p to 52p
Malayan Tin 10p to 380p
Morris & Blakey 3p to 46p
Woodhead J. 3p to 223p

Gold gained \$0.25 an ounce to \$150.125
SDR-S was £1.8340 on Wednesday, while SDR-E was 0.652011.
Commodities: Renter's Index was at 1490.5 (previous 1491.5).
Reports pages 20 and 22

the company's request yesterday after climbing 61p to 38p.

Allied Polymer, the Surrey-based rubber and plastics products producer, and one-time Slater, Walker vehicle, saw pre-tax profits slump from a depressed £22.5m to £10.1m last year.

However since the year-end the group has attracted some interest in the stock market on the belief that a strong recovery could be underway.

Pre-strike fire loss up

Fire damage costs leapt alarmingly to £13.1m in October, up from £10.9m in September. The figure is seen as particularly disappointing by the British Insurance Association as it shows a sharp reversal of interest.

Protectionist fears

Member countries of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade are regarding the protectionist moves as at least as harmful as the measures themselves. Mr George Maciel, of Brazil, the chairman, said yesterday in summing up discussions during a two-day meeting in Geneva.

Mr Li sees ministers

Mr Callaghan and Mr Li Chiang, China's foreign trade minister, yesterday spent an hour discussing prospects for Sino-British trade. Both agreed trade would expand, but there was no discussion of any specific items such as Britain's Harrier military jump-jet aircraft. Earlier Mr Li discussed the purchase of technological expertise with Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy.

Builders see no backing for 'dock labour' plan

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Building employers are cautiously optimistic that they have blocked trade union efforts to introduce a "dock labour" scheme of workers' registration and fall-back pay.

The Construction Industry Manpower Board (CIMB), set up two years ago to advise the Government on employment, is expected on December 12 to issue an interim report recommending voluntary registries of employers. The thorny issue of sanctions against companies refusing to participate will almost certainly be left to the two sides of the industry to decide.

Building industry unions, backed by the TUC Construction Committee, have long argued the need for decasualisation of the industry under a statutory register of both employers and employees to be implemented by a Manpower Board and strict sanctions against companies refusing to take part. All registered building workers would be guaranteed employment or a "fall-back" pay.

The employers have fought this proposal on the grounds that a statutory register would be an inflexible intervention in the industry's manpower practices and harmful to commercial success. It now seems almost certain that the CIMB will recommend to Mr. Freeson, Minister for Housing and Construction, that three voluntary registers of employers should be set up covering building, civil engineering and specialist sub-contractors. The criteria for registration, and any question of sanctions, will be left for the industry's collective bargaining machinery if the employers have their way.

The CIMB is working to terms of reference laid down by the Government "to advise the Secretary of State for the Environment on the desirability of statutory or other measures to increase the stability of employment in the construction industry and, in particular, the desirability of establishing a statutory authority to implement measures for that purpose which could also include a register of employers and employees".

In the face of strenuous delaying tactics by the employers, the unions have gradually dropped their insistence on statutory registration and are returning to the employers as willing to accept some form of voluntary registration.

But they are still deeply divided over the question of sanctions and may in the end reject the kind of enforcement provisions that the unions argue are vital to the success of the scheme.

Population decline in big UK cities

By Caroline Atkinson

Fewer people now live and work in densely populated areas. The dispersal of population and jobs from crowded urban areas since the beginning of the 1960s is noted in a report prepared by the Department of Employment's Unit for Manpower studies.

Between 1961 and 1974 the population in Britain's seven major conurbations has declined by 6.8 per cent. Meanwhile the rest of Britain has grown by 13.4 per cent.

Resident labour forces have also declined in the seven conurbations of Greater London, Central Clydeside, Merseyside, South East, Lancashire, Tyne-side, West Midlands and West Yorkshire.

Between 1951 and 1961 the labour forces in these areas grew by 2.7 per cent while that in the rest of Britain rose by 8.5 per cent. In the next 10

years the labour force shrank by 7.2 per cent in the urban areas while growing by 11.5 per cent outside the seven.

Despite their relative decline in importance in terms of population and employment these large metropolitan areas still dominate in absolute size. About a third of Britain live in the big seven, and they accounted for 35 per cent of the resident British labour force in 1971.

The report suggests that as living standards have improved and the technology of transport and communications advanced, the need of more space outside the cities has been made possible. This trend is also thought likely to continue.

In spite of the decline in the labour force in the metropolitan areas, in all but two the number of managers, professionals and self-employed increased, although the most obvious difference between the

metropolitan groups and the rest of the country was that employment of other skilled and other non-manual workers fell in the former and rose in the latter.

More accidents

In the first three months of 1977 there were 52,677 accidents at work notified to the Factory Inspectorate, of which 110 were fatal. This is 11,145 more than in the last quarter of 1976. Miners are excluded from these figures.

The area with the most accidents in the latest quarter was the North-east, where 5,657 took place with 14 fatalities.

Employment falls

The number of jobs in Britain fell by 165,000 between June, 1975 and 1976, to 22,045,000. This is shown in the results for the detailed annual census of

employment for 1976. The number of men in full-time employment fell by 144,000 and the number of women by 55,000.

There has been a marked slackening in the trend of growing female participation in employment in the 1970s which has not been picked up by the quarterly censuses. The 34,000 increase between 1975 and 1976 was the smallest since the annual census began in 1971.

Union membership up

Total union membership rose by 3.6 per cent to reach 12,376,000 in 1976. The total number of unions rose from 451 to 462. The 11 largest unions had 62.4 per cent of the total membership. Men accounted for 71.2 per cent of all union members, but the proportion of women in the unions increased slightly from 28.4 per cent to 28.8 per cent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Threat from cut-price EEC process plant

From Mr J. L. Good

Most of the projects for which fabricators are being ordered abroad are in the assisted areas and benefit from Government help funded by British taxpayers without any parallel obligation to support British suppliers. The projects are capital intensive and make only a modest contribution to creating new jobs or safeguarding employment except in the construction phase.

The process plant industry's current concern is not about low-cost producers outside Europe but cut-price competition in the home market coming mainly from within the European Community and against which there is no protection whatsoever.

Reports received by this association show that over recent months British fabricators have lost business worth well over £25m to foreign competitors. This work has been lost on price and price alone; quality and delivery are not in issue. In many cases orders have been placed at 30-50 per cent below United Kingdom prices.

The fabricating sector, though working well below capacity, is making every effort to keep its labour force intact. However, if business continues to be lost at the present rate redundancies next spring are inevitable. It is time for the United Kingdom process industries to look beyond the short-term advantages of opportunist purchasing and to recognise that they risk inflicting permanent damage on the British supply capability to the detriment of customers and suppliers alike.

Yours faithfully,
J. L. GOOD,
Acting Director,
Process Plant Association,
197, Knightsbridge,
London SW1 1RS.

November 28.

Shirt workers in Northern Ireland

From Mr G. Doltis

Sir, It was of great interest to read of the bishop's concern (Letter, November 23) for Hong Kong.

We own five factories in Northern Ireland producing shirts, one of them in Strabane, which has a 40 per cent rate of unemployment. Could he not show some concern for the shirt workers in Northern Ireland with all their troubles? The EEC is not advocating a total ban of imports, but a cut in the future rate of growth.

It is very difficult to maintain sales when the market is being flooded with shirts for half our price. The bishop should advocate decent wages and working hours for the Hong Kong workers so that sales would be on merit and not on sweat labour.

Yours faithfully,
G. DOLTIS,
Chairman,
Burlington (Savile Row) Shirts
12, 25 Savile Row,
London, W1 1AA.

Inflation

From Mr Patrick Lawrence

Sir, "Inflation's licked" some dairy papers shriek.

"It will no more the nation's vigour sap" (Production's less than in the three-day week) which shows our true regeneration gap.

Your obedient servant,
PATRICK LAWRENCE,
Clebe House,
Fawley,
Wantage,
Oxfordshire.

November 17

Effect of employment protection law

From Mr David Green

Sir, There can be a world of difference between the letter of the law and how it works—more than sufficient with employment protection law to account for the fact that Mr. Mordisley and Mr. Francis (November 15) unjust.

The only practical advice that one can give to any employer confronted with a claim for unfair dismissal by an employee is that it will cost him upwards of £150 for his own and his lawyer's time to contest it—win or lose; and that it will therefore pay him, regardless of the merits, to pay a substantial sum to dispose of it.

The reasons are simple. The burden of proof rests upon the employer. Even the simplest case may require the attendance of several witnesses; the more complex case, involving a long history of events—and particu-

larly financial matters—may consume hours in preparation and days before the tribunal. If the employer is successful, he can expect no order for costs, save in the case where he can satisfy the tribunal that the applicant acted frivolously or vexatiously. Such cases are rare, and in cases in which they do not so rarely find common accepted principles of justice, it should not surprise us that some employers protest them to be unjust; and it does not become lawless in try and gainay what happens in practice, by reference to the minimal and largely inoperative restraints contained in the legislation.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Rhuddlan,
Castell Morris,
Near Haverfordwest,
Dyfed SA62 5EJ.
November 21

Hint on N Sea gas to spin out reserves

By Edward Townsend

Two new accounting standards have been proposed in the form of exposure drafts by the International Accounting Standards Committee.

One, the eleventh exposure draft by the IASC, covers accounting for foreign currency deals and the translation of foreign financial statements. It suggests that, with some exceptions, foreign currency deals should be recorded using the foreign exchange rates existing at the time of the transaction. It also requires detailed disclosure of foreign exchange gains or losses.

The second, the IASC's eighth exposure draft, covers accounting for construction contracts, but in the United Kingdom and Ireland this subject matter is covered by accounting standard 3.

European airbus £30m UK deal

Orders totalling £30m for further sets of wings for the European A300 have been received by British Aerospace.

This brings the value of total orders for airbus wings placed with the Hawker Siddeley Aviation factories within the United Kingdom to £150m, providing employment for 2,000 workers.

Orders for the airbus, made by a consortium of international aircraft manufacturers in France, West Germany, Britain, Holland and Spain, have doubled to 110 in the past 11 months.

The treaty, still under consideration by the United States Senate Foreign Relations Com-

well ahead, at least to the end of the century, on the basis of discovered reserves.

Next year gas would be saving about £3,000m on the balance of payments against £3,400m for oil. "But neither gas nor oil could transform the economy; they could provide only a breathing space in which to rebuild the country's industrial base."

Conservation awards: Veolia's car plant at Ellesmere Port, Merseyside and North West Gas were named as joint winners of this year's gas energy management award, presented by British Gas.

The award, which goes to the company and gas region judged to have made the most significant contribution to energy conservation, went to Vauxhall for a scheme for improving furnace efficiency. This has resulted in potential savings of 500,000 therms a year, worth about £50,000 to the company.

Sir Denis said the 16 finalists

included a Fine Fare branch with 4,000 sq ft of selling area but no car parking.

York, a study of Shopping

can be obtained from the York

Junior Chamber of Commerce,

Hungate, York JO1 2PA.

California tax hint on foreign companies

Mr Jerry Brown, California

State Governor, confirmed yes-

terday that he wants to limit

the application of the state's

unfair tax system on foreign

companies based in California.

Answering questions during

a private visit to London, Mr

Brown said he was doing this

through support for the United

States-United Kingdom Double

Tax Treaty or, if necessary, state

legislation.

In hearings before the

Foreign Relations Committee in

July, California state tax auth-

orities opposed this provision,

Article 9(4), on grounds it im-

pinged on state versus federal

tax rights.

Mr. Green, contains a controversial clause limiting the application of unitary tax assessment systems to operations of foreign companies based in the United States, rather than worldwide as currently practised by the California state tax authorities.

In hearings before the Foreign Relations Committee in July, California state tax authorities opposed this provision, Article 9(4), on grounds it im-pinged on state versus federal tax rights.

He confirmed yesterday that

in discussions with United King-

dom businessmen during his

visit he has assured them he is

seeking to limit the application of California's tax system on foreign company operations there.

The 231 year old British Linen Bank yesterday went back to work. Founded by Royal Charter in 1746

On 30th November 1977 the merchant banking operations, assets and whole undertaking of Bank of Scotland Finance Company Limited—already Scotland's largest merchant bank—were transferred to The British Linen Bank Limited.

We are pleased to announce the revival of this respected bank which has financed trade and supported industry for more than two centuries.

Acceptances

Term Loans

Direct Investment

Corporate Finance

Deposits

Leasing

Governor: Thomas N. Risk, B.L.
Deputy Governor: Thomas W. Walker, C.B.E., B.L.
Chief Executive: D. Bruce Patullo, B.A.
Secretary: Joan Smith, M.A., L.L.B., Ph.D., Advocate

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK LIMITED
The Merchant Bank of the Bank of Scotland Group.

4 McIver Street, Edinburgh EH3 7NZ 031-226 4071 87 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5TJ 041-221 6692

كلاً من الأجل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Calm returns to the money markets

There are those around financial markets to whom it seems that the monetary authorities can do nothing right. Had the authorities, it is argued, pushed for the MLR increase the week after the sterling float, everything in the garden would now be looking off, not entirely rosy, at least rosier than it is. Markets could have been rapidly committed to the idea that the main monetary consideration had changed as from October 31 to one of overseas supply effects to those of domestic demand effects and, with the authorities apparently well on top of the situation, the smooth continuation of the public sector funding programme would not have been put at risk.

Whether things would have gone quite so smoothly could be open to doubt. But, right or wrong, the fact remains that the authorities do not appear to be in the happiest of positions at the moment.

Yesterday's move by the Bank to "communicate" with the market was the right one given the confusion and uncertainty that was building up, and the stabilizing effect of the announcement was plain to see. But the market remains uneasy about the authorities' ability to resume the funding programme on any scale for the moment.

As I have already pointed out this week, the temporary run-down in institutional liquidity is one factor. But, equally important, of course, is the confidence factor. If the market believes that gilts will be bought, then money supply fears evaporate, the whole process becomes self-feeding and there is no need to raise interest rates further. If, on the other hand, it believes that too many investors are worried about what may happen to the money supply, the situation becomes deadlocked.

The hope at the moment is that nerves can be calmed sufficiently to ease that deadlock and here the news background could well prove critical over the next few days. If things go the wrong way, the authorities would then have to reconsider their position, either in terms of the price of money, or, much against their will, quantitative restrictions on the banks. One sadness, meanwhile, is that the instrument designed to help cope with this kind of situation, namely the floating rate gilt, is clearly not able to fulfil its intended role.

Rothmans Increasing market share

Rothmans International is now claiming to have won a 10 per cent share of the United Kingdom cigarette market, which compares with only 7.6 per cent last year and 6.9 per cent in 1975. During approximately the same period Imperial Group, the market leader, has boosted its share of the King Size market from 11 per cent to around 40 per cent, but its gains look more and more to have been at the expense of its own cheaper, smaller brands, which have dominated the United Kingdom market, but which are increasingly threatened by the change in tax treatment favouring larger sizes coming into effect with EEC harmonization on January 1.



Sir David Nicolson, chairman of Rothmans International.

The cost to Rothmans has been an apparent fall in United Kingdom profits despite healthy gains in exports. The potential, however, is clearly seen as being very great indeed. Rothmans is able to compete with Imperial's dominance (a 66 per cent total market share in 1976) only because of its strength elsewhere in Europe and burgeoning third world and Middle East sales which helped six months profits to September to rise 30 per cent to £38m.

A general switch to King Size, where it is strong, has given Rothmans the chance to attack Imperial's market strength. Any idea that the price-cutting and marketing war will stop in January when margins would otherwise rise as the new tax laws come into effect, looks increasingly unlikely. The prize is to grab a bigger slice of a market in which sales growth by any other means is extremely slow. Such chances come rarely

and Rothmans is likely to face, in the New Year, increased competition from BAT, whose presence in the United Kingdom so far is very small, with its State Express 555 brand, and possibly from Philip Morris.

Such competition is bound to draw in both Imperial and Gallaher, which could make the immediate future profits potential in the United Kingdom fairly grim. Rothmans meanwhile is having problems holding market share in Germany, although making up for declining cigarette sales with hand-rolled tobacco, and is facing the prospect of keener margins as a result of a higher pound.

Second-half profits are not expected to improve on the same period last year and in the short-term the best growth has now passed. The shares, though, have overperformed the market by about 15 per cent since January and the sector by about twice that. At 52p the prospective yield is 5.9 per cent and without any promise of a dividend increase on the relaxation of restrictions the shares look fairly valued.

Payments (which fall on customers) to make up on the deficiency are creating an investment monster while Whitehall and the Post Office wrangle about the causes of the paper deficit.

Even before last year's actual valuation, which raised the deficiency from £1,092m to £1,920m (so raising the sum due to the fund from the Post Office under its 20-year scheme for eliminating deficits), it was estimated that by March 1985, the fund could have over £3,000m to invest.

Some idea of this colossal sum can be gained if it is measured against a figure of just under £30m only six years ago, when it was established as a contributory scheme.

The Carter committee's views on what it called the confused and sorry story of the pension fund did not, at the time of publication, attract much scrutiny, given public interest in other matters. But they deserve a look. Whitehead's reply before the dimensions of the emerging problems—creating a fund so large that it may become impossible to manage properly—become a matter of major public concern.

Customers of the Post Office are at present saddled with paying in prices towards current pensions, for deficits clearly resulting from the

existing rules.

Meanwhile profits in the second quarter were virtually static but was hardly surprising given sluggish industrial demand, a point underlined by results from people like ICI, GKN and Metal Box. Thus, the first quarter's 17 per cent profits increase has been cut to a little under 10 per cent at the interim stage, while margins reversed the first quarter trend and declined.

The banking side has felt the effect of low interest rates, it has been seeing good business in the gold bullion market which is volatile at present. While the Rustenburg increase in platinum prices will provide JM with higher commission profits for the remainder of the year, the economic climate means that profit estimates have been downgraded since the beginning of the year. A modest increase to £25m in pre-tax profits seems in sight, which puts the shares at 45p on a prospective p/e ratio of 6.6, yielding 4 per cent on a five times covered dividend.

Company secretaries In search of greater status

Under law every company must have a company secretary. That said, anyone can become one, a point not lost on the Institute of Chartered Secretaries & Administrators which apparently went through The Stock Exchange Year Book and found that even among listed companies the secretary invariably did not claim any qualification.

Yet the company secretary has clear responsibilities under law; the institute says that there are over 90 instances in which incorrect performance of duties by a company secretary could result in criminal proceedings; the secretary is seen as the guardian of law within the company. Against this background and growing demands for a high level of competence and integrity from company officers, the institute is pushing for statutory recognition for company secretaries; a Private Member's Bill will be sponsored towards this by Mr John Cockcroft, the Conservative MP for Nanwarch.

In future, the institute wants to see all company secretaries, but initially those employed in listed companies, holding some recognized accountancy or legal qualification, though naturally, it says that its own broadly-based qualification which leads initially to becoming a licentiate of the institute is the best available. Since it involves papers in economics, finance, law, accountancy, personnel, administration and management, it assumes that the company secretary has to be something of an expert in many fields—someone who is a little tired, perhaps, of being taken for granted.

Business Diary: A CBI for the professions?

Members of the British professions are going to face one of their periodical fits of self-questioning about their inability to organize themselves into a genuine version of the TUC or the CBI.

A week today Alan Strachan, immediate past chairman of the members' affairs standing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, will deliver an address in London on the need for some such organization.

The council of the Law Society, the solicitors' body is known to be considering how the British professions might secure a better hearing in Brussels—or, for that matter, Westminster.

One way likely to be discussed is affiliation to a body recognized by the EEC's Economic and Social Committee. Such a body is the Brussels-based European Secretariats of Liberal Intellectual and Social Professions (SEPLIS), hitherto dominated by French and Belgian professionals.

SEPLIS, however, prefers its members to be groups of associations, which takes us back to the question: to combine or not to combine? The Irish Republic has had a Federation of Professional Associations for ten years.

The Law Society council has

before it a broadly favourable report on SEPLIS from Stanley Crossick, who sat at a recent meeting as a representative of the EEC's Consultative Committee of Bar and Law Societies.

Whether the surveyors and the solicitors can agree among themselves, let alone with anybody else, remains to be seen. No such move is likely to get far without the blessing of doctors of one stripe or another, who have blocked previous initiatives either, because they look down on other and newer professions or because they think that inter-professional groupings are inimical to their traditions of independence.

But while British professionals differ, in Brussels the bureaucrats are steadily rehashing the boundaries between one discipline and another and dreaming up harmonization measures not at all to British tastes.

June Evans, a British member of the EEC's Economic and Social Committee specializing in professional matters, joked in London last week that the Brussels watchword was: "If it moves, put a regulation on it; if it stands still, harmonize."

For a bargain 80p and in a projected 47 minutes,

businessmen will from December 16 be able to commute from the centre of Heathrow Airport, London, to Piccadilly by way of an extension of the London Underground.

The extension, which is to be opened by the Queen, will be 31 years and seven months coming (the Minister of Aviation said in 1946 when opening Heathrow, that priority had to be given to a tube line).

At first sight, it looks like being a boon to the flying executive. But will it really be worth changing travel patterns?

The journey between Heathrow and Piccadilly has 18 stops, which is a lot, but probably less than would be made by a car or taxi or traffic lights over the same route.

The first train on weekdays arrives at the airport at 6.30 am and the last leaves at 10 minutes to midnight. There are no trains through the night, but the airport closes down under a noise curfew anyway.

So far so good, but there could be a big snag when travelling into London early in the morning.

Most of the jumbos arrive from the United States between 6.30 am and 10.30 am so that air passengers taking the tube into London could tangle with

the hordes of London office force has gone one better (or worse).

And little extra space is being provided on the new trains for luggage, so let us hope that it is possible to get out at Piccadilly rather than at points between there and the Cockfosters terminus.

Swan Hunter shipyard workers may stick to their overtime ban, but Phil Evans's work-

tural engineering, is a small farmer.

Evans, his wife and a friend started the farm a year ago in a small shed behind the Lamb Inn, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire. He breeds principally for the table—his meat is much sought after—but Wychwood Smalls recently received an order for 15,000 guinea-pig molasses (snails) from a chemical company who required them for research.

The order will now be completed until next year. Winter has intervened and the snails have gone into hibernation.

Evans is now insulating the shed to ensure that cold does not stop work again.

The Women in Management voluntary group this week published the second edition of their Women's Who's Who. This is different, not only from the Who's Who in its sexist basis, and in having fewer than 200 entries rather than several thousand. It is also becoming increasingly age.

Where Who's Who gives a date of birth irrespective of sex, Women's Who's Who prefers merely to give an "age group". This is variously "30-40" or "40-50". Women older than this are described simply as "over 50".

With their largest ever order, the workers, who have never raised their production rate above 2,000 a snail's pace, have now packed it in altogether and taken a break on the job.

A union spokesman for the workers would, if asked, no doubt suggest it was part of a survival plan. For the workers are small, and Evans, apart from being a lecturer in agricultural

engineering, is a small farmer.

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A union spokesman for the workers would, if asked, no doubt suggest it was part of a survival plan. For the workers are small, and Evans, apart from being a lecturer in agricultural

engineering, is a small farmer.

Evans, his wife and a friend started the farm a year ago in a small shed behind the Lamb Inn, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire. He breeds principally for the table—his meat is much sought after—but Wychwood Smalls recently received an order for 15,000 guinea-pig molasses (snails) from a chemical company who required them for research.

The order will now be completed until next year. Winter has intervened and the snails have gone into hibernation.

Evans is now insulating the shed to ensure that cold does not stop work again.

The Women in Management voluntary group this week published the second edition of their Women's Who's Who. This is different, not only from the Who's Who in its sexist basis, and in having fewer than 200 entries rather than several thousand. It is also becoming increasingly age.

Where Who's Who gives a date of birth irrespective of sex, Women's Who's Who prefers merely to give an "age group". This is variously "30-40" or "40-50". Women older than this are described simply as "over 50".

With their largest ever order, the workers, who have never raised their production rate above 2,000 a snail's pace, have now packed it in altogether and taken a break on the job.

A union spokesman for the workers would, if asked, no doubt suggest it

STOCKLAKE HOLDINGS LIMITED

Exporters and distributors overseas, export financiers, steel stockholders, importers

Principal U.K. Subsidiaries:

Adam & Harvey Limited
B. Ashworth & Co. (Overseas) Limited

Results for the year ended 31st March 1977

- ▷ Total Group profit before tax, including share of profit of an associated company, £1,449,000 (1976—£1,092,000).
- ▷ Earnings per Ordinary Stock Unit of 25p before extraordinary items: 19.7p (1976—12.4p).
- ▷ Increased Final Dividend of 1.81658p per Ordinary Stock Unit (1976—1.5p) making 2.56658p for the year (1976—2.25p).

In his Statement, the Chairman, Major-General A. M. McKay, C.B., C.Eng., comments on the substantial profits growth achieved against a background of persistently difficult trading conditions both in the U.K. and abroad. In the current year the Company has continued to trade profitably and indications are that this year's results will be reasonably satisfactory.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Hall No. 3, Winchester House, 100 Old Broad Street, London EC2 on Thursday, 22nd December 1977 at 12 noon.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, King's House, 36-37 King Street, London EC2V 8DR.



Confidence for the future

Highlights from the Statement by the Chairman, Sir Gerald Thorley, T.D., F.R.I.C.S., for the year ended 30th September, 1977.

The recovery in the Group's profitability has continued. Profit before taxation of £9m has increased from £5.5m in 1976 and, after all charges including a £1.2m appropriation for depreciation of overseas properties, the earnings available to ordinary shareholders are £2.2m, a turn round of £3.2m. The taxation charge has decreased from 71% of gross profits in 1976 to 54% in 1977.

An interim dividend of 1.7p net per share payable on 26th December 1977, has been declared which, together with the related tax credit, is equivalent to a gross dividend of 2.575p per share. This dividend will absorb £1.8m of the profit available and a final dividend will not be paid.

UNITED KINGDOM

Investment Portfolio

The investment portfolio continues to be the underlying strength of the Company and from it will come much of the future growth of income. This will be supplemented by the developments as they are completed and become income producing, and by the application of good property management.

Sales of investment properties in the United Kingdom have continued during the year and an amount of £12.7m has been realised. This has involved the sale of 90 properties at a surplus of £1.1m over book value. Our target sales for the current financial year has already been met and further sales will therefore only be made when dictated by the principles of good estate management.

Development Portfolio

During the last few years MEPC has retained a number of major sites, in excellent positions, which could not be developed because of the lack of two vital ingredients - a demand for the finished space at rentals which will support building costs and a willingness by institutional sources to fund development schemes. During 1977 we have had evidence that conditions are changing and in 1978 we expect that our pre-existing and funding requirements will be met to enable us to commence development of our sites in Guildford and Oxford Street.

We are conscious of the need to control the extent of our development programme to ensure that the simultaneous development of a number of sites does not bring with it the attendant risk which could arise from any downturn in the demand for space.

Residential Developments

Last year I said that we needed to achieve another £5m of sales to close the operations of MEPC Housing Ltd. and J. Sanders & Son (Holdings) Ltd. I am glad to tell you that we have reduced our holding in these subsidiaries to around £4m without having to make further provisions.

VALUATION OF PROPERTIES

The income earning part of the investment portfolio has been valued on the basis of open market value and it is our intention in the future to revalue this portfolio annually. The result of the valuation was a surplus over net book value attributable to MEPC of £6.6m which has been incorporated in the Balance Sheet.

This year we have been able to review our uncompleted development sites by reference to their value at completion and have made provisions in respect of certain of them, totalling £3.8m. The uplift in value expected from other sites and developments in progress has been disregarded.

Copies of the 1977 Annual Report and Accounts will be available from December 20th. If you would like to receive a copy, please write to the Company Secretary, MEPC Limited, Brook House, 112 Park Lane, London W1Y 4AY.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

About turn as the optimists come back on Bank's MLR signal

Bearish indications from Wall Street and continued interest rate jitters prompted widespread marking down soon after the opening yesterday.

However, the luncheon signal from the Bank of England that MLR should rise no further in the short-term prompted a quick about-turn that prompted dealers to start talking of a firm run-up to Christmas.

On the whole these optimists seemed to get the better of the pessimists who were still keeping one eye on the pay disputes and both equities and gilts managed to close with net gains.

But the feeling is now that more substantial backing is needed for the rally. Yesterday's movements were largely technical with business abysmally low throughout the equity market.

Gilts did show a certain amount of activity. Jobbers

Pilkington Brothers shares at 43p are splendidly firm ahead of interim figures due soon. Indeed they jumped 13p on Tuesday, more than recovering ground lost earlier. But the yield is a meagre 3.3 per cent and profits in the half year to September 30 may have risen only modestly from £27.6m to say, £30m or a bit more. If so, the shares' strength could be tested.

opened at overnight prices that drifted back until the signal from the Bank when the markets rallied strongly to score gains of up to a point in the shorts and a quarter in the longs.

Interest rate uncertainty was also dominating property shares early on but the signal plus good final results from MEPC fuelled a strong rally. MEPC

itself closed 4p up at 118p while Land Securities gained 3p to 198p.

Industrial leaders mirrored the progress of gilts and finished at their best with ICI up 5p to 362p, Beecham up 7p to 252p and Fisons up 2p to 37.5p.

In engineering GKN followed suit with a gain of 6p to 284p and in the same sector speculative takeover talk continued to push John Brown ahead with a 5p gain to 258p.

All the excitement over base rates has had remarkably little effect on a quiet banks sector though Barclays showed some movement during the day as their board decision on rates was awaited and the share closed a penny up at 325p. Williams & Glyn's made its base rate announcement and the parent company National and Commercial Banking Group whose results are due today, lost a penny to 70p.

In electricals Racal dipped sharply ahead of today's interim figures only to recover

itself trading forecasts from Avon Rubber to push the shares up 6p to 176p while better-than-expected figures from Rothmans were accom-

panied by a less than bullish statement and the shares lost 4p to 52p.

Equity turnover on November 29 was £66.6m (12,894 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph active stocks yesterday were BP partly paid, ICI Oil Exploration, Shell, BEI oil, GUS, Beecham, Marks & Spencer, BATS, Racal, Rank Organisation, Reed, International and Distillers.

Latest results

Company	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div. pence	Pay date	Year's total
Avon Riv. (F)	108.0 (97.8)	5.4 (2.4)	68.4 (27.5)	5.2 (4)	23/1	9.2 (5)
Barker & Dyer (I)	20.4 (18.5)	0.02 (0.51b)	0.50 (0.79)	NH (NH)	—	(NH)
Cruff Malt (F)	0.60 (0.51)	0.04b (0.08)	—	0.8 (1.2)	—	1.7 (2.14)
Graham H. (I)	— (—)	0.13 (0.09)	—	1.40 (1.40)	—	(3.0)
Henshaw (I)	1.2 (0.99)	0.07 (0.06)	—	NH (NH)	—	—
Hill (I)	— (—)	0.05 (0.05)	—	3.84 (3.87)	—	4.54 (4.97)
Int. Prop. Dev. (F)	2.3 (7.8a)	0.06 (1.3b)	0.6 (1.7)	—	—	—
Imson, Matthey (I)	190.4 (181.1)	10.0 (9.1)	—	6.1 (5.0)	1/2	(12.1)
Long Creations (I)	— (—)	0.02 (0.02)	—	—	—	—
Mansfield Btry (I)	— (—)	1.41 (1.1)	—	2.3 (1.5)	—	(6.5)
MEPC (F)	— (—)	8.5 (5.4)	—	1.7 (NH)	29/12	1.7 (1.7)
Metrop. Prop. (I)	— (—)	0.04 (0.05)	—	—	—	—
Petaling Tre. (F)	— (—)	10.00 (7.5c)	—	2.5 (7.5)	5/1	62.5 (17.5)
Rothmans Int. (I)	853.0 (754.7)	37.9 (29.1)	—	0.73 (0.66)	26/1	2.03 (2.18)
Shiffield Refresh (I)	0.47 (0.40)	0.05 (0.02)	—	—	—	—
Singer Best (I)	— (—)	8.7 (1.7b)	0.01 (0.61b)	—	—	—
Sinley Lamp (I)	1.1 (1.0)	0.08 (0.01)	—	4.0 (NH)	—	—
United States (I)	— (—)	10.6 (7.7b)	—	—	—	—

Dividends per share are shown on a net basis on a gross basis. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividends by 1.15. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a For 22 months. b Loss. c Dollars and cents. d Forecast.

De Beers to lift diamond output 13 pc

De Beers is planning to increase its total output of diamonds by some 13 per cent with expansion at its Kimberley and Naumanaland mines. The major increase will be at Finsch mine at a cost of £40m and which is expected to be completed in late 1979.

In Naumanaland the small Langhoogte mine is to be reopened at a cost of £1.6m. Production at the rate of 60,000 carats a year is expected to begin next July. Development of the Koinigswas mine to produce 500,000 carats a year is on schedule and is also due to come into production next July.

Meanwhile, a De Beers subsidiary is to spend R5m on a comprehensive mineral survey over 100,000 square kilometres in Namibia to the east of Windhoek.

New capital issues in November

Midland Bank says that the amount of "new money" raised in the United Kingdom by the issues in November was £214.0m, an increase of £33.2m on the total for October. With one month of the present year remaining, £142.7m has been raised so far, compared with £143.7m for the same period of 1976.

Public bodies accounted for only £38.0m of the total. Eight local authorities raised £3.8m by bond issues, the lowest monthly figure since December 1973.

The amount raised by companies rose sharply from £73.2m in October to £176.0m in November.

Turnaround sweetener from Barker & Dyer

Confidentialery and retailing group Barker & Dyer has returned to profit at the half way stage after over three years of losses. In the six months to October 1, the group made a pre-tax profit of £22,000 against a £511,000 loss last time, on turnover up from £20.4m to £20.8m. Most of the improvement has come on the confidentialery side which is now trading in the black and losses in the retail division have been reduced.

Another record year in sight at Helene

Prest a Porter, wholly-owned subsidiary of fashion and leisure wear group Helene of London, has entered into a trading arrangement with David Baigler, a company controlled by Mr Baigler himself, for the manufacture of women's clothing. Any credit facilities which arise are to be supplied by the parent company Helene.

According to Mr Baigler recently appointed to the board, Helene is on course for record profits again this year. In 1976 pre-tax profits of Helene amounted to a record £807,000.

Hanson Trust goes shopping

The chairman of Empire Plantations and Investments, Mr George Whittaker, forecasts a record tea crop in the current year. Coupled to very tight financial control, this has lessened the impact of increased wages and escalating costs, he tells shareholders in the annual report. Empire was the subject of a fan abortive takeover bid by Capers Investments earlier this year. Shareholders representing only 5.6 per cent of the equity accepted



The British Petroleum Company Limited £1 Ordinary Stock Units

Offer for Sale by the Bank of England on behalf of H.M. Government

Final Instalment Due 6th December 1977

The Bank of England wish to remind holders of Letters of Acceptance that the final instalment of £1.54 per £1 Stock unit MUST BE PAID BY 3 P.M. ON 6TH DECEMBER. Cheques for the amounts due, made payable to the Bank of England and crossed "Not negotiable - BP Stock" must be forwarded, with the LETTERS OF ACCEPTANCE, to the APPROPRIATE RECEIVING BANK whose name and address appears in the box on the right-hand side of page 1 of the Letters of Acceptance.

Registration of Renunciation

The attention of holders of renounced Letters of Acceptance, i.e. those with Form X completed or marked "Original duly renounced", is drawn to Instruction 5 on page 3 of the Letter; it is essential that both Declaration (A) — where appropriate — and Declaration (B) at the foot of page 4 are signed before fully paid Letters are lodged for registration of renunciation on or before 15th December.

Lake & Elliot, Ltd.

VALVES, STEEL CASTINGS
ENGINEERING

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st July, 1977

	1977	1976
Group Turnover	£18,247m	£18,290m
Group Trading Profit	£1,121m	£2,027m
Earnings per Ordinary Share		
—before extraordinary item	4.44p	10.62p
—after extraordinary item	2.59p	10.62p
Ordinary Dividend	3,4914p	3,4385p

"Although the long term market prospects remain obscure, there has recently been a considerable improvement in the order position, the effect of which should be felt in the second half year. The Company, therefore, having taken drastic action to recover its momentum, faces the future with confidence tempered with prudence".

Peter Lake, Chairman

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, Middlesex House, 29 High Street, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7HR

Bank Leumi Base Rate

Bank Leumi (U.K

FINANCIAL NEWS

Asset growth at Cumulus tops sector average

By Alison Mitchell

Cumulus Investment Trust is a company with its feet firmly on the ground. In the year to September 30 last, the net asset value a share rose 57 per cent to 42p against a sector average of around 27 per cent.

Pre-tax revenue more than doubled in the period from a previous £25.7m to £56.3m partly as a result of the two subsidiary companies turning in better performances. The income from the investment trust itself also increased, according to Mr John Smith, chairman.

During the year its offshoot Cumulus Systems moved from Nottingham to London and the subsequent expense and disruption hit profits from this side. However, the chairman forecasts an improvement in the current year and promises shareholders that the group will attempt to halve profits on the side from £8,000 to a minimum of £12,500.

Cumulus Systems has developed various computer programmes for financial management which show considerable promise.

During the year the company repaid its £700,000 loan and has reduced its holdings in the United States to less than 3 per cent of the £24m portfolio. At the time of the repayment the investments were worth more than the loan.

The dividend has been raised from 1.07p to 1.21p which on a share price of 75p yesterday which held steady, 75p gives a gross yield of 4.7 per cent.

Meanwhile, Lord Dunhill, chairman of Scottish Cities Investment Trust, expects a further increase in dividend income from investment in the current 12 months to September 30 next. However, he tells shareholders in the annual report that this improvement will be partly offset by the reduction in interest rates.

£5m loan for Argos as profits soar

Coinciding with the announcement of record turnover and profits for the year ended November 5, 1977, for Argos catalogue showrooms, its joint managing director, Mr Joe Phillips, gave details of a £5-million loan by Barclays Bank to finance the next stage of the company's new showroom development plan.

He said that Argos would have an estimated profit of some £750,000 on a £50-million turnover for 1976-77, after

Avon Rubber slows sharply but more-than-doubles total

By Our Financial Staff

Avon Rubber's recovery rate slowed significantly in the second half just as the group had predicted at the interim stage.

Even so profits continued to move ahead at a rate of around 55 per cent to provide a more-than-doubled total of £5.4m for the full year to October 1.

The swift return to record profits after the losses of more than £500,000 is celebrated with an 80 per cent dividend boost.

Shareholders' payments were cut back in 1975 and the group has now obtained Treasury permission to restore them to the earlier levels and add the 10 per cent maximum.

A final payment of 7.95p gross takes the total to 14.05p gross against the 7.65p of last year.

Shares of the Wiltshire-based tyres and industrial products group, jumped 55 to 176p yesterday despite some fairly pessimistic comment about current trading from the directors.

During the first two months



Mr. H. C. I. Rogers, chairman of the current financial year, they say Avon has experienced increased competition in the tyre business. This is expected to continue into 1978.

At the same time continued

disruption of production schedules through industrial disputes in the car industry make any forecast for the full year particularly difficult.

But the group says that its increasing efficiency and broader base should enable them to maintain the trend of improving profits.

This year's pre-tax profit is struck after a depreciation charge of £2.3m against £1.9m and a consolidation of £115.25s against under £6,000 from associate companies.

Total turnover was 23 per cent ahead at 108m.

The group's decision not to provide for deferred tax resulting in a charge this time of under 14 per cent gears up the attributable profits improvement. As a result earnings per share jump from 27.5p to 68.4p.

Avon Rubber has remained on a strong recovery track since it became one of the worst casualties of the United Kingdom car industry downswing two years ago.

Commenting on the £7m profit is declared, costing a total £223,500, a 10 per cent gain, the maximum permitted under the counter-inflation legislation, on the 3.6p gross paid last year.

Because of the change in income tax rates shareholders will also gain getting a net 0.08282p a share for last year, bringing last year's dividend up to the total permitted gross distribution.

Alfred Dunhill is 51 per cent owned by Rodman International whose half-year results were also produced yesterday.

Holdings with £1.5m. This first-time contribution includes five months from the German company, but these are not quantified.

An interim dividend of 4.03p gross is declared, costing a total £223,500, a 10 per cent gain,

the maximum permitted under the counter-inflation legislation.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Early losses reversed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 28. Dealings End, Dec 9. § Contango Day, Dec 12. Settlement Day, Dec 20

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

The logo for Henry Butcher & Co. It features the company name in a large, bold, serif font. Below the main name, the words 'incorporating' and 'Leopold Farmer & Sons' are written in a smaller, italicized serif font. To the right of the main name, the words 'Agents, Valuers and Surveyors' are written in a smaller, italicized serif font. Below the main name, the words 'Property & Plant' are written in a large, bold, italicized serif font.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Strong start made by Deutsche Bank

There are growing signs that 1977 will turn out to be another excellent year for West Germany's banks, with some observers already forecasting higher profits than in the record year of 1975.

Deutsche Bank, the country's largest private bank, reports that profits from ordinary operations rose by about one fifth in the first 10 months of this year when compared with tenfold its monthly average earnings in 1976.

In an interim report, the bank disclosed that earnings from commissioning business and from borrowing and lending activities rose by 12.3 per cent to DM2.087m in the 10 months to the end of October, while expenditure on administration increased by only 6.9 per cent to DM1.583m.

The bank added that it also achieved good results through trading on its own account, although lower foreign exchange earnings had to be set against higher transactions on securities transactions.

The bank said that after a slow start its volume of business had expanded strongly since the middle of the year to stand at DM70.349m at the end of October, or 3.8 per cent higher than the DM67.958m of end-December last year.

The bank's average business volume was 13 per cent higher in the January to October period than in the same period of 1976.

Walter Kidde

Walter Kidde & Company, the American diversified and manufacturing concern, plans to offer \$50m (about £27.7m) of 25-year sinking fund debentures in mid-December. The proposed public sale was registered with the Securities & Exchange Commission, a spokesman said. It will be made through underwriters led by Goldman, Sachs & Co. At least 95 per cent of the debentures are expected to be retired prior to final maturity in 2002 by sinking fund payments due to begin in 1983. Walter Kidde has earmarked its sale proceeds for the repayment of short-term debt and other purposes.

Pertec looks ahead

After announcing record profits, Mr. Ryal R. Poppa, chairman of Pertec Computer Corporation, the Los Angeles-based manufacturer of computer peripherals, data entry systems and microcomputers, says: "Based on the first-half results, we expect sales to approach \$130m (about £72.2m) and earnings to increase in excess of our long-range growth goals."

Pertec Computer Corporation's growth will come primarily from divisions already in place. "But future acquisitions that fit our current product line should not be ruled out," Mr. Poppa said.

English Steel deal

British Steel Corporation's subsidiary, the Johannesburg-based English Steel Corporation (Overseas), has agreed to exchange its 40 per cent shareholding in Steel Wheel & Axle South Africa for 200,000 Dorman Long shares. This became effective from October 1 this year, Dorman Long says.

The shares to be issued by Dorman Long, which presently holds 60,000 ordinary shares or 60 per cent of Steel Wheel & Axle, will rank for dividends declared after today. British Steel has a 35

International

Hanimex optimistic

Hanimex Corporation of Australia, the photographic equipment group, reports that sales for the first quarter of the current year became 10 per cent higher than those in the same period last year, and the group expects that this rate of increase should continue for the whole of the first half, the chairman, Mr. A. W. Utter, told the annual interim shareholders' meeting in general, he said.

But group figures for the six months would be affected by a reduction in international export sales to major customers from the level achieved in the last few months of the last financial year. Hanimex made a consolidated net operating profit of SA4.7m (about £3m) in the year ended June 30 on sales of SA10.32m.

Sumitomo Bank dips

Sumitomo Bank, one of Japan's largest says that its net profit in the half to September 30 dipped to 8,100m yen (about £17.6m) from 13,800m yen in the similar period a year ago.

This is because it absorbed the largest single write-off in Japanese banking history.

On the other hand, the bank said its total write-off of claims receivable from the defunct Ataka & Company trading house amounted to 112,200m yen. Fifteen other Japanese banks also took write-offs during the half-year accounting period on Ataka's liabilities, totalling 197,800m yen.

Kyowa Bank, with the second biggest share in the Ataka failure, wrote off 44,700m yen. It reported net profit in the half-year eased to 3,000m yen from 5,100m yen a year earlier.

In October, Ataka & Company was formally merged with C. Itoh & Company to create the third largest trading concern in Japan.

Fuji Bank uplift

Net profit of Fuji Bank of Japan rose to 15,400m yen in the half-year to end September 30. This was against 12,100m yen a year ago. Current revenues from operation income was 326,800m yen, up against 323,806m yen. The dividend was 2.5 yen (same).

Bache halts loss

The Bache Group, Wall Street's largest broker, reported a very substantial increase in November gross revenues and October's trading losses have been stopped as a result of the turnaround in the bond market, Mr. Harry Jacoby says. Last year the first quarter of fiscal 1978 ended October 31 at 21 cents per share on revenues of \$66.4m (about £36.8m).

Mitsubishi increase

Mitsubishi Bank of Japan shows a net profit of 15,100m yen (about £3.5m) in its half-year to September 30. This was against 13,100m yen in the same period last year. Revenue from current income was 318,800m yen compared with 304,700m in 1976.

BPM's newspaper side now faring better

A reasonable cheerful picture of the future was painted at the annual meeting in Birmingham by Sir Michael Chapman, chairman of BPM Group.

He told shareholders that, on the newspaper side, the Birmingham Post & Mail had had difficulties, but had still done better than in the first four months of last year. All the other newspapers in the group are doing "distinctly" better than last year, as is BPM's retailing business. Dillons Exhibitions, however, have done less well. On balance, the chairman looked for "a rather better year all round."

He also revealed that for 10 weeks this autumn the computer room at Colmore Circus had been crippled by an inter-union dispute about who should operate what. Progress had been made towards its settlement and normal working resumed. But while it was on, it meant heavier costs and lower advertising revenue.

ASARCO Because of continuing losses at the Granduc Copper Mine in British Columbia, Asarco is writing-off its investment in the venture, plus a provision for estimated future costs. This will result in charges against earnings in 1978 of about \$2.5m after tax or 51.2s a share. —Dow Jones.

GORAL LEISURE Recent rights issue of 3.07m ordinary shares attracted acceptances for 2.94m shares (95.7 per cent).

AGRICULTURAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION The corporation's rate of interest for one-year loans will be reduced to 10.5 per cent from December 1, 1977. The lending rate of interest for new variable-rate loans completed on and after December 1, 1977, will also be 10.5 per cent.

THE TIMES THURSDAY DECEMBER 1 1977

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT, SESSION 1977-78

BRITISH RAILWAYS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that

APPLICATION IS BEING MADE TO

THE BOARD OF TRADE, THE BOARD

OF BRITISH RAILWAYS, FOR THE

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL

INTO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

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INTER

Motoring

Russia's lonely drivers fend for themselves

A week spent in the Soviet Union, looking at the car industry and driving, has convinced me that there is something to be said after all. The car is a symbol of status, being a motorist in the West, traffic jams and petrol prices notwithstanding. With only five million cars among 250 million inhabitants, the Soviet Union is still in the pioneer stage of owning cars, and this is particularly true of the range and quality of services offered. Petrol stations, for instance, are rare enough to be specially marked on maps of Moscow and there are very few service and repair outlets. Owners of the Lada (the Russian name of the Fiat 124) can call upon 32 service centres in the entire country, plus 150 minor ones and a number of mobile units. No wonder that motorists are encouraged to do their own servicing and repairs; if the Lada comes with such a comprehensive tool kit.

Spare parts are in such short supply as pifering is rife and Russian drivers often remove the windscreen before parking. If there is a breakdown, there is no friendly motor organization to give help at the roadside.

Petrol may be cheap by Western standards, but the cars are not. The

new motor industry deliberately charges high prices on the home market, to meet the demand for the limited number of cars available will exceed the supply.

The 1500 Moskvitch costs 6,800 rubles (roughly £5,100). This means at the average Moskvitch factory worker would have to save every ruble for three and a half years to buy one. A comparable car in Britain costs, say, £2,500, or the equivalent of about nine months' earnings.

As in Britain after the war, the short

age of cars has meant high secondhand prices and, inevitably, a black market.

1 secondhand business is supposed to

through state-owned commission ops, which set the prices, but there

are private deals in which considerably more money changes hands.

Roads, apart from the main routes, are primitive. Only a fifth of the

national network is surfaced. But the

roads that are available are far less

upkeep than in the West and though

the Moscow authorities are beginning

to concern themselves about traffic jams I

imagine like the ones you queues

at held up in London or Paris.

Also, if and when Moscow does get

car population equal to London's it

will be in a much better position to

do. Almost all the arterial roads are

carriageways, with three or four

lanes each side, and there are numer

ous flyovers, tunnels and pedestrian

overpasses.

The road system has developed less

phariously than in Western capitals

and is basically a number of ring roads

spokes leading into the centre.

ricing meters have not yet appeared

and there is a nice legal point as to

whether, since all land is owned by the

state, they can be charged for leaving

in cars on it.

Some traffic laws are much tougher

than in Britain. Drivers are not per

mitted any alcohol, and the first

offence means automatic loss of

licences for two years, a fine of 30

rubles and a new driving test before



Russia's new four-wheel drive hatchback, the Niva

being allowed back on the road. A would like to get it for the British market if the problem of converting to right-hand drive can be overcome.

The Russian breathalyser looks like a clinical thermometer and is known as the "yellow submarine" after the colour of the crystals, which turn blue if the motorist has been drinking. Molchov and Shirkarenko, the inventors of the device, are said to be the Soviet motorist's least favourite people.

The driving test is in three parts. First, there is a medical examination which includes checks on eyesight and heart condition. Then a theoretical examination, in which candidates sit in an illuminated panel setting out eight traffic problems and have to push buttons to indicate their answers. More than one wrong means failure, but successful candidates go on to the driving section of the test, which may last only 10 minutes if the examiner is satisfied.

The preparation required for the test is enormous and includes 140 hours of technical instruction, 60 hours on traffic laws, 20 on road safety, 15 on first aid and 32 of actual driving. The pass rate is said to be about 70 per cent, compared with less than half in Britain. One excellent idea is that road safety is a compulsory part of the school curriculum from the age of seven; the authorities are very keen to reduce the number of accidents among children. Seat belt wearing is compulsory and the overall speed limit is only 90 kilometres an hour (55 mph—the same is in the United States).

The Russians are reluctant to disclose road casualty figures. In Moscow they are said to be about 500 deaths a year, with a slight downward trend despite a steady increase in traffic. (In Greater London last year 652 people were killed on the roads.) For the Soviet Union as a whole annual road deaths have been unofficially put at 45,000, which would be extraordinary high in relation to the number of vehicles.

Tough all-rounders

The latest product of the Soviet car industry is the Niva, a small four-wheel drive car which shares the engine and gearbox as the Lada, but is of entirely Russian design. With large wheels and a high ground clearance, it is a sort of miniature Land-Rover and intended for use on farms and unmapped country roads.

Four-wheel drive is available on the Niva, which should make it a useful off-road vehicle for farmers, country vets and the hunting-shooting-fishing fraternity. At £5,677 it is the most expensive of the range, which starts at £2,557 for the two-door saloon.

The styling of the car is typically Japanese, distinguished by a high waistline and shallow windows and despite front-wheel drive—proclaimed on the outside of the car—the interior struck me as rather cramped. But I suspect that like other Japanese cars the Niva will be sold more as a reliable vehicle than a pretty or a roomy one.

Peter Waymark

Coincidentally, there is a four-wheel drive model among the Japanese Saloon cars which go on sale for the first time in Britain today. There are five models in saloon, coupé and estate form, sharing a 1600cc flat-four engine driving the front wheels, independent suspension and rack-and-

power steering.

The 1.6 litre overhead camshaft engine gives modest acceleration, but this is hardly of the essence: more

reliably, the Niva can tow caravans and trailers up to 17 cwt. cwt. and intended for use on farms and unmapped country roads.

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... Also I heard the voice of

in Lord, saying, whom shall I

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Then said I, send me.

—Isiah 6: 8.

BIRTHS

BOTTRELL.—On 29th November, at

Gray's Inn Hospital, London, a

son, Christopher, to

John and Mary Bottrell.

BULLOCK.—On Monday, 21st November, at the Royal Free Hospital, London, a daughter, Sophie, to

John and Sophie Bullock.

COOPER.—On November 29th, at

Gray's Inn Hospital, London, a

son, Christopher, to

John and Mary Cooper.

GRAY.—On November 29th, at

Gray's Inn Hospital, London, a

son, Christopher, to

John and Sophie Gray.

HAGGIE.—On 29th November, at

Gray's Inn Hospital, London, a

son, Christopher, to

John and Sophie Haggie.

HARPER.—On November 29th, at

Gray's Inn Hospital, London, a

son, Christopher, to

John and Sophie Harper.

HEDDERLEY.—On November 29th, at

Gray's Inn Hospital, London, a

son, Christopher, to

John and Sophie Hedderley.

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a Special Report on the diverse and far-flung regions which make up the federation

NIGERIA

Military men seek to clean out Augean stables

by Peter Hill

Empty oil drums, plug the gaps between the seven rough hewn stakes of a makeshift execution dais on Bar Beach.

The elite of Lagos, who reside on Victoria Island and return to the cutting edge of sand at weekends to laze and lounge in the sun have become inured to the crackle of rifle fire on a Saturday morning. Death by firing squad has become as much a part of life in Lagos as the appalling and senseless deaths in road accidents.

When executions take place thousands of people make the journey to Bar Beach to witness the fate that awaits any armed robber who is tracked down. But the extent to which these executions represent an effective deterrent rather than a spectacle is open to question. The armed robbers persist. Nigeria's military rulers, who are committed to establishing a "disciplined, fair, just and humane African society" in the country before they hand over power to a civilian regime in less than two years, are unlikely to halt the executions.

The next 18 months or so in the period to October 1979, when free elections are held for the first time since 1966, will be the most crucial and critical since the civil war which tore the country asunder.

Nigeria is a vast and populous nation and, thanks to oil, far richer than many of its neighbours in the African continent. But the gap between the haves and have-nots, rather than closing, is perceptibly widening.

The Federal Military Government has taken steps to ensure that the ostentation which characterized the life-style of many of those

Nigerians who had become fat on the back of the country's economic boom was contained.

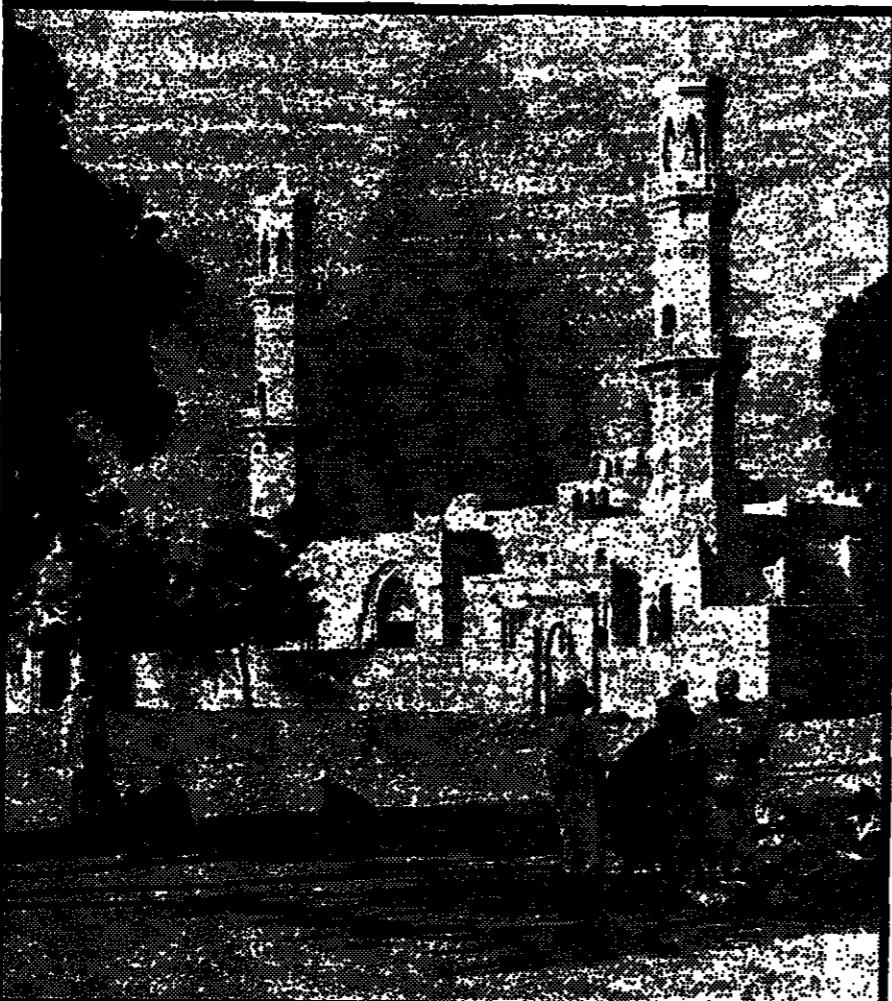
The military men who assumed power after the depoing of General Gowon, and who were set back by the assassination of General Murtala Muhammad in February last year, have sought to bring about a new sense of direction in Nigeria. Under the Gowon regime the country had drifted. The third development plan, its vast spending programme linked to the expectation of steadily rising revenues from crude oil, was quickly undermined.

The scope and emphasis of the plan have since been reviewed and new priorities established. Because of inflation the plan will cost more to carry out and it is doubtful whether more than about 40 per cent of the projects will be completed before the end of the plan period in 1980.

The military men who govern Nigeria have by their words and actions sought to clean out the country's Augean stables. Chronic port congestion and the great cement scandal have been tackled purposefully and although there are still considerable shortcomings, the improvements have been marked.

Nigeria's Civil Service, a byword for indolence, inefficiency and corruption has been purged with thousands of people being prematurely retired or dismissed, from lowly office messengers to top government officials. But the gap between the haves and have-nots, rather than closing, is perceptibly widening.

The Federal Military Government has taken steps to ensure that the ostentation which characterized the life-style of many of those



Scenes from regional life: an old mosque in Kano in the north and two men playing the game in Oyo in the west.



Indeed many consider that feature of the regime of the beginning of October, it is worse than ever. Certainly the soldiers who apply gun Obasanjo, the Head of Nigeria's foreign exchange State, has been the communication first spelt out by his predecessor, General Muhammad, for a return to civilian rule. General Gowon reneged on his promise to return the country to civilian government and paid for that decision. The present leaders appear totally committed to returning to the barracks and so far have been created in an attempt to cut across tribal boundaries. Plans have been made to introduce a draft constitution last month the regime noted: "It has been observed that some people have been speaking out candidly on a wide range of topics. This has no doubt appealed to the 40

million or so electors who will cast their votes in October 1979.

In a country as diverse as Nigeria, where factionalism and tribalism are endemic, can any civilian regime survive for any length of time?

Whether the tribal jealousies and rivalries can be effectively subsumed beneath the slogan "Nigeria first" is even more difficult to assess. Certainly tribal allegiances and identification remain strong. Typical comments from educated business men can perhaps best illustrate the difficulties.

For the present, however, Nigeria's military rulers, who have increasingly become involved in foreign affairs, most notably over the future of Rhodesia and South Africa, have difficulties of their own to deal with at home. They include continuing high levels of inflation, balance of payments difficulties and the responsibility of forging ahead with the development plan, all of which will have to be shouldered by a civilian administration eventually.

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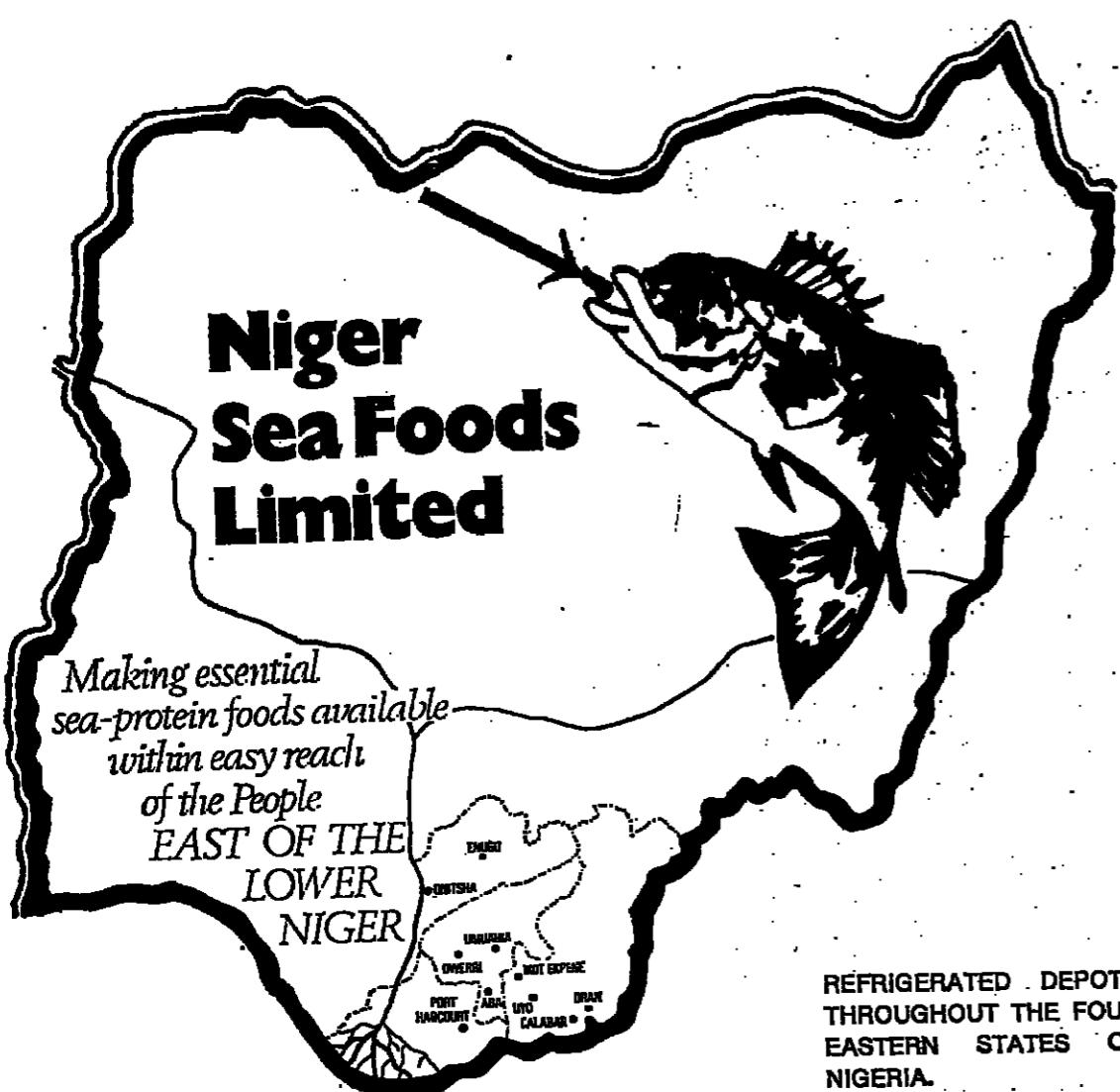
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Reforms are crucial in return to civilian rule

by David Williams

Last December and January adult suffrage elections were held throughout the federal bodies for local government bodies of a new kind - "multi-purpose, single-tier institutions", which were to be called "local governments". The military regime regarded their establishment as a "crucial element in the political programme" for return to civilian rule, designed to "stimulate democratic self-government and to encourage initiative and leadership potential".

The new authorities have "complete and self-contained budgets" and can delegate specific functions to subordinate councils still financed entirely by the local governments. Subordinate councils are not another "tier" of government but are part of the same "tier" as the local governments.

To become both "effective and local", the Government decided, the new bodies should serve populations of between 150,000 and 800,000, except in the case of big towns. With populations of fewer than 150,000, it is

300,000, staffing and overhead cost would be serious problems, while if authorities were too big they would produce big, sluggish bureaux.

It was recognized that population densities in some areas could be so low that state governments should be allowed to establish authorities covering fewer than 150,000 people, though only with the permission of Lagos.

In most cases the authorities were to be co-extensive with previous administrative divisions.

A wide range of functions is mandatory for the authorities, including a wider range, such as agricultural extension work and primary education, can be given to them by the states. They are the only authorities now recognized below state level.

A proportion of members, some by virtue of traditional offices, can sit in the authorities, and in some northern states the governors have appointed the maximum number allowed.

Perhaps the biggest innovation is the abolition of "provincial" and "divisional" administration - the DO

fewer than 150,000 to field administrative officers.

who in some states had in effect been running local government, have been withdrawn either to the ministries of local government or to the new authorities.

The British system of local government, whose introduction was so optimistically attempted in colonial days, is now to be supreme, even in northern states, where the emirate system is strong. Many of the emirates have been split into a number of self-contained local governments while smaller ones have joined others in a single authority.

In the emirates, however, the ancient system of district and village heads is wisely retained, thus giving traditional authority and their councils some say in the appointment of key officials of the new local government. But the French "prefecture" system, to which some Nigerian states were tending, has been abandoned. Local government is seen as a school for democracy and political responsibility.

So much importance did the soldiers attach to local government reform in a country where many experienced

problems have founded that lines says was one reason they agreed on the new system even before the proposal was presented. The system, however, is the result of wide consultation among traditional rulers, and conferences of state representatives.

Final implementation of the federal Government's proposal was the responsibility of state governments; Lagos did not want to impose any uniform system. But in the end Nigeria has a far more uniform system than seemed possible even a few years ago.

The reforms, however, were not meant to reduce the traditional functions, but should help to preserve "the organic unity of our traditional institutions and societies" as the federal government "guidelines" put it. Emirate and traditional councils, however, still have clear roles and the possibility of chiefs being "active" presidents of local governments, where a traditional area coincides with a new local government.

So much importance did the soldiers attach to local government reform in a country where many experienced

politicising", the foreword to the guide.

The author is editor, West Africa.

NEW CAPITAL

Expensive proposal may be cheaper in long run

One important decision taken by the military Government which its successor will have to implement is to move the federal capital from Lagos.

The decision was not taken just because of the city's famous traffic jams, which should soon be greatly eased. Lagos, it was decided, could not remain the federal capital for several other reasons.

For example, there is a shortage of over 40,000 houses; perhaps 300,000 people have no regular habitation. Some dwellings are little more than hovels and the occupants pay outrageous rents. Public transport is inadequate and costly.

The panel, under Mr Justice Aguda, set up by the Government to make recommendations for a site for a capital, noted that only a small part of Lagos "had any semblance of a modern sewage system"; to establish a system would require demolition of most buildings.

It was meant to move the capital to one of the driest capitals in the world. For seven months each year it becomes impossible for pedestrians to walk along some major streets... as water in the streets will be knee-deep". The city's topography makes surface draining very difficult. Only a completely new telephone system inside the city, requiring enormous structural alterations and even demolition, could improve communications.

Demand for water now exceeds that formerly projected for the year 2000. Food, of all kinds, firewood, indigenous building materials, are all made more costly by the need to bring them to Lagos from far away.

The outstanding problem

of Lagos, however, is shortage of land for expansion. This makes enormously expensive reclamation of land necessary in the capital territory of a country which has some 356,000 sq miles.

If there were no other problems, Mr Justice Aguda's panel concluded, acquiring land immediately adjoining Lagos was now so expensive that even the new cost of establishing a new capital would be less for bidding. Lagos will, however, remain the commercial centre and main port.

Why did the panel choose for a new capital an area south of the ancient town of Abuja, almost in the middle of Nigeria in Niger state?

Criteria suggested by the panel for the capital territory, which embraces no fewer than 3,000 sq miles, included, first, "centrality", which the new site certainly has. Other quotations were: "adequate and climate land availability, water supply, multi-access, possibility, security, existence of building materials locally, low population density, power resources, drainage, soil, physical planning convenience, ethnic accord".

Climatically, the new site shows a great improvement on Lagos, and it has agreeable scenery. The area is thinly populated: it is not intended to include in the capital territory the pleasant Abuja town, with its great number of foreigners (see box). Michael Cardew developed the great talent of the potter, Ladi Kwali.

A traditional potter's village in the northwest. Below: the Lagos airport

Water supply is adequate, as are land communications with the rest of Nigeria. Air communications could be easily established.

Local availability of building material will depend largely on uncompleted projects, such as the proposed iron and steel complex.

There should be no problem in bringing electrical power, and the new capital could be provided with a first-class telephone, communications system and good roads.

Cost remains the great problem. The panel observed that a "sizeable portion of the national income" would be committed to building the new site in the 10 to 15 years

involved, but without a "devastating effect on the economy as a whole". In fact, because of the need to spend vast sums in Lagos if the capital is not moved, and of the economic activity which building a new capital could foster, the panel argued that there was a "cost-advantage" in their plan.

Opponents of the new capital see in it a new political symbol for Nigeria. In the end that will be the real test.

D.W.



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THE FASTES

حذف اعن الامر

On this and the next page Peter Hill examines steps to improve links with the outside world and between different parts of the country

PORTS

Bureaucracy rather than congestion now causes delays

A transformation has taken place in Lagos harbour. Two years ago the congestion at Nigeria's principal port was chronic; hundreds of ships were at anchor for months, awaiting berths to unload their cargoes. Now, jugs are busy day and night pushing lighters from ocean-going ships anchored to buoys in the harbour to the new Kirikiri lighter terminal on Badagry Creek. The insatiable demand for goods that was created by the country's economic boom is much nearer being satisfied than seemed possible at the height of the standstill.

The shipping and forwarding industry complains that the NPA is now so preoccupied with the number of ships waiting to unload that officials do not take account of the type of vessels involved in the hold-up. There is evidence that because of fears about further congestion, the NPA is refusing the issue of ships entry notices to both conference and non-conference lines in an endeavour to keep the number of ships at anchor at a level acceptable to the Government. The ship's entry notice system is acknowledged to be a reasonable way of restoring order—provided it is organized and deployed sensibly. But because of the present policy of the NPA, a number of ships bound for Lagos-Papa have been forced to anchor off other ports on the coast while waiting for the NPA to issue the notice.

Recently Lagos-Papa—with more than 70 berths—has been handling more than 700,000 tonnes of cargo a month. When Tin Can Island is fully operational the figure is expected to rise to some one million tonnes a month. Nearly 50 per cent of the cargoes are being discharged in lighters, the traditional method of cargo handling at Lagos-Papa.

The Nigerian Ports Authority, which faced the task of alleviating the choking of the port in the wake of the great cement scandal, has achieved substantial progress. But purges among its staff, as in other branches of the Civil Service in Nigerian Nigeria in the campaign

against corruption, have left

their mark. Promotion pro-

pects have been enhanced, but often people selected to fill middle management positions lack the necessary skills and a vacuum is created, which is already 12.5 metres and 200,000 sq ft of storage space is due for completion. An estimated N75m is being spent on the project. It will include the provision of six additional berths and a new container terminal designed to meet the needs of a business that has expanded rapidly in the past 10 years. In 1968 the port handled 182 containers but in 1975/76 it dealt with nearly 23,000 and the traffic continues to increase. At present about 97 per cent of container cargoes handled by Nigerian ports go through one berth on the existing Apapa quays, the balance through Warri and Port Harcourt.

The new container berth will be equipped with modern handling facilities and will be served both by road and rail transport. Other development projects are under way at Port Harcourt, the country's second largest port, which handles about 15 per cent of Nigeria's foreign trade, excluding oil shipments. Port Harcourt, which lies on a bend in the Bonny River 76 kilometres from the sea, has eight berths, one of which is used solely for loading coal. Under the third development plan four new berths along a further 1,000 metres of quay are to be built at a cost of N40m.

The present port complex covers 47 hectares and is provided with both road and rail connections. There are transit sheds and four modern warehouses, and the total storage area amounts to about 41,000 sq metres.

Some of Nigeria's smaller ports are also expanding. At

Facilities at Calabar, which lies 9km from the main entrance channel of the

*EI=1.182 naira.

sea ships, but four more berths are to be constructed by 1980 at a cost of N27m. At Koko on the Benue river N15m is to be spent on building five new berths costing N16.5m. When all these schemes are completed Nigeria's ports will be among the most modern in the world.

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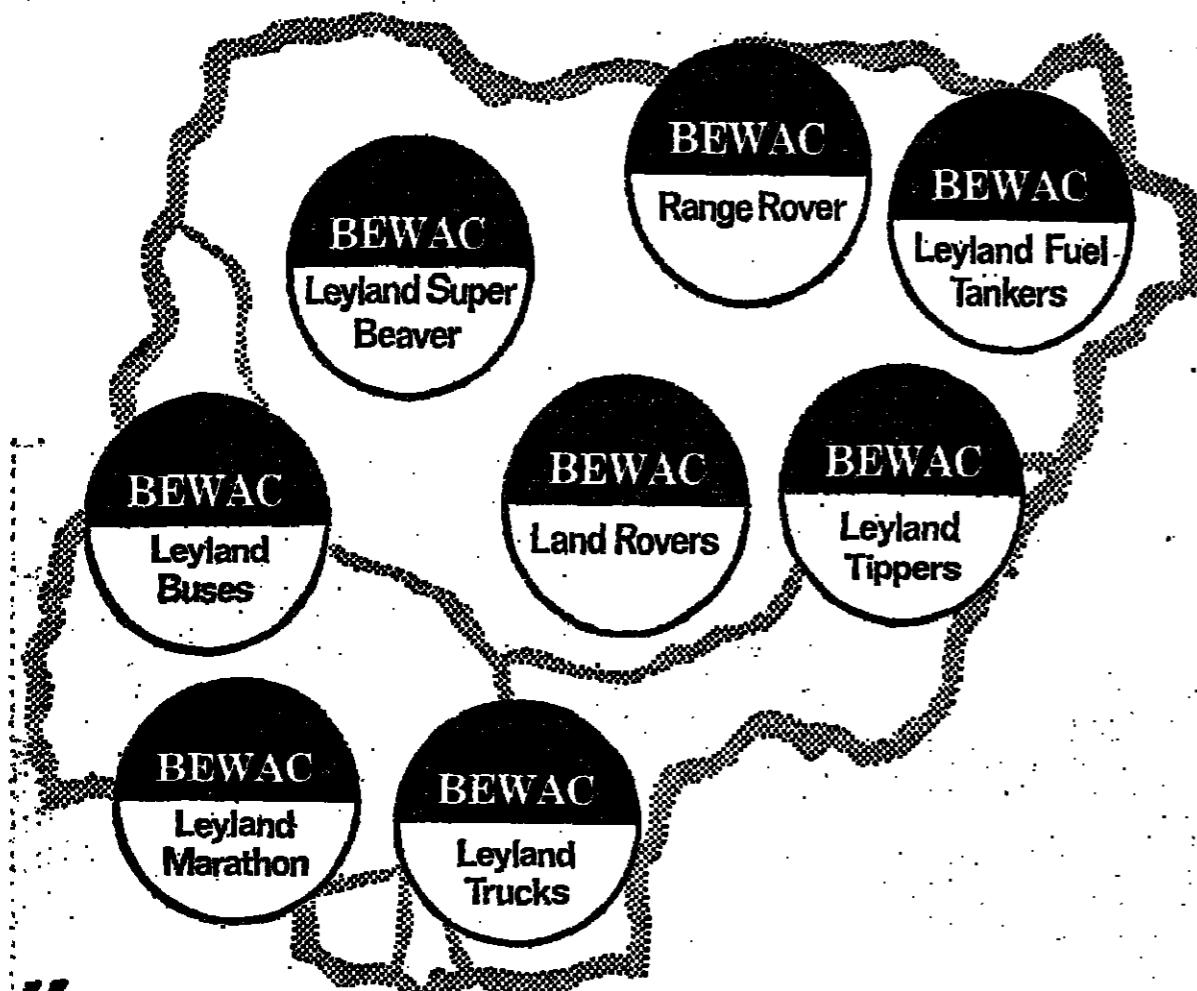
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SALES AND SERVICE THROUGHOUT NIGERIA



The first sign of Nigeria's own commercial vehicle industry

Leyland Nigeria are the first of four companies busily developing the progressive truck manufacturing programme in Nigeria. The Ibadan factory will be first to get its production line rolling before the end of 1978.

This is bound to add to Nigeria's wealth and provide more jobs and training opportunities for Nigerians.

It will also mean that as a manufacturer actually making commercial vehicles in Nigeria, Leyland will be able to develop an even better understanding of Nigerian conditions and the specifications needed to cope with them.

Leyland are already a lot further down this road than other manufacturers in the market, because the Land Rover has been hard at work in Nigeria for over 20 years.

Many of the lessons it has learnt the hard way have been built into every Leyland. Giving the whole Nigerian range the Land Rover qualities of reliability, economy and durability.

That's why we say there's a little bit of Land Rover in every Leyland.

Leyland Nigeria

Leyland Nigeria. For Austin Morris, Land Rover, Range Rover and Albion.

AVIATION

Spending their way out of chaos



A Fokker being fuelled at Murtala Muhammad airport, which will be able to take supersonic aircraft when development work is completed.

Murtala Muhammad airport may appear to passengers to be a chaotic nightmare, but it has improved. The shortcomings and difficulties of Nigeria's principal airport, 15 miles from Lagos, have been recognized and next year should see the opening of a new airport. It became all too apparent some years ago that the existing facilities could not possibly cope with the flood of passengers.

When the developments are completed in 1978, rather than 1976, the airport will be able to accommodate not only the 747s that international airlines are using increasingly, but also supersonic aircraft. The projects which have been implemented form part of a comprehensive and ambitious plan for the country's airport and general aviation development, involving construction of new airports and improving existing facilities.

Under the revised spending

limits of the third

national development plan

covering 1975-76, N700m has

been allocated for the

development of airport facil-

ties throughout the country.

Earlier this year, Dr

William Osiogwu, Federal

Commissioner for Aviation,

disclosed that N400m had

been committed and of that

about half had been paid

for work done.

Apart from the develop-

ments at Lagos, six other air-

ports, at Port Harcourt,

Makurdi, Kano, Kaduna,

Sokoto, and Ilorin, are being

improved to a standard

which will enable them to

accommodate the Jumbo Jet

Airport at Calabar, Enugu,

Yola, Jos, Ilorin, Kaduna and

Yola are being redeveloped

to enable 737 size aircraft to

land, and other improvements

are planned at Zaria, Gusau

and Warri.

Completion of the planned

developments will produce

one of the most comprehen-

sive internal airline net-

works in Africa and provide

links to international desti-

nations from deepest Nigeria.

At Lagos, the main focus

of the development pro-

gramme is the new runway

and the new terminal, which

must have ranked as one of

the most uncomfortable ter-

min facilities in the world.

These have been delayed as a result

of shortages of essential

equipment in the initial

phases. Apart from the physical improvements, the

aircraft is being equipped

with radar and associated

aircraft handling and con-

trol facilities. The acute

shortage of hotel accom-

modation should also be

partially alleviated by the

construction of a hotel.

The secondary runway at

Kaduna has been lengthened

and strengthened to cope

with the expected increase

in traffic. The new lay-over at

Floris is designed in such a

way that it will provide an

alternative to Murtala

Muhammad airport.

Planned developments at

Port Harcourt, the centre of

Nigeria's oil industry, have

been hampered by bad

weather, the poor sub-soil

and the lack of access to

the new airport site, com-

pounded by difficulties in

the financial management of new aircraft has so far not led to any marked improvement in the reliability of several of the company's internal flights. Nigeria Airways has become synonymous with poor service and chaotic organization.

Long-suffering internal travellers question the wisdom of operating half-empty flights to a growing number of international destinations. Perhaps the introduction of a second force—an independent airline—would provide the spur for improved service by the state corpora-

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This and the following five pages contain profiles of nine regions throughout the country

IBADAN

Beggars flow downstream against the tide of cars

By Richard Thomas

Glittering splash of rust and gold—flame among seven hills like chintz in the sun.

John Pepper Clark, in this poem of 1950, captured the dusty streets, the rusting corrugated iron roofs and the glittering sunshine of Ibadan. It remains an accurate snapshot today. On one of these hills, the Premier Hotel dominates a view with its bay window below. Viewed from the horizon, anonymous modernity the sea of brown rooftops surges without relief. A million and a half people crowd Ibadan with their life's needs, making it the largest indigenous city in Africa.

A key commercial, economic and intellectual centre in Nigeria, this central Yoruba town is now capital of Oyo state. Aware of its importance, the city struggles to outlive its inhabitants with their noisy and dirty throats, their affluence and filthiness.

The roads of Ibadan have succumbed to the people, beggars and street sellers on downstream against the onward tide of cars, lapping against one car window after another, thrusting brushes in bags, pants and pegs and outstretched palms at the sweating occupants inside. Each market the umbrellas are lined in ranks, waiting departure, and their rivers shout in competition for travel.

But the people have compensated Ibadan for their reverence; they have attracted the publishers, the major commercial and manufacturing companies, the Kingsway forces and the British Council; they have inspired the university, the Institute of Church and Society; they have nurtured the woodcarvers and the cloth weavers.

It has not always been so. The traditional Yoruba sources were Ife and Oyo, but in the early nineteenth century the Yoruba kings fell and a long period of civil disorder ensued.

This was exacerbated by

the Muslim Fulani from the north whose advance south stopped the Yoruba from raiding the middle belt for slaves, and caused them to raid each other instead. Groups of bandits roamed Yoruba-land and around 1829 a group set up camp in what was to become Ibadan.

The camp became a rallying point and a place of safety for the refugees, both from the civil wars and from the Fulani incursions into Oyo.

Gradually it was established as the Yoruba military headquarters from which resistance against the Fulani was mounted. In 1851 the town had 11 miles of protective walls and its population grew rapidly to 60,000. By the time it came under British rule in 1893 the population had risen to about 120,000.

The success of Ibadan was based on a number of factors. The hills in and around the town provided good look-out points; the protective walls were defensible and thus encouraged more people to settle in Ibadan; and luck perhaps had staked it sufficiently far into the high forest that Fulani horsemen were discouraged from mounting an attack on it. The population used Ibadan as a fortified place whence they would journey to the farms outside the walls during the day. Indeed, it is still referred to as a peasant village, and about a fifth of the inhabitants still work as farmers, travelling out of their farms whenever necessary.

Ibadan was not a traditional Yoruba centre, although it had long had a traditional chief, called the Olu of Ibadan, and its inhabitants felt willing to experiment with change. They laid great emphasis on modernity: they were ready to adapt their life-styles and to become involved with trade and commerce. They also accepted the Western educational system, brought by the British, and Ibadan became (like Abeokuta, another refugee town) an educational centre.

However, it did not quickly become a political centre. Despite its pre-eminence as a trading centre it was ruled by Oyo from 1900; when Southern Nigeria was put



Smiles all round: whether it is selling onions or sharing the one desk at a crowded village school near Ibadan.

under British protection, and growing economic significance encouraged settled immigration. "Strangers' quarters" were established; the Nupe and people from Ilorin settled in Mokola; the administrative centre for the western part of the Southern Protectorate and in 1951 this division was rationalized into a state, called the Oyo State, and its inhabitants felt willing to experiment with change. They laid great emphasis on modernity: they were ready to adapt their life-styles and to become involved with trade and commerce. They also accepted the Western educational system, brought by the British, and Ibadan became (like Abeokuta, another refugee town) an educational centre.

During the early part of the twentieth century, Ibadan had grown rapidly. The railway arrived from Lagos in 1901 and the first trunk road in Nigeria was built from Ibadan to Oyo in 1905. Cocoa was developed as a major cash crop and roads were built in the 1920s. An outer ring of administrative, military, and educational establishments has developed around the old town and commercial area.

The old parliament building and growing economic significance encouraged settled immigration. "Strangers' quarters" were established; the Nupe and people from Ilorin settled in Mokola; the administrative centre for the western part of the Southern Protectorate and in 1951 this division was rationalized into a state, called the Oyo State, and its inhabitants felt willing to experiment with change. They laid great emphasis on modernity: they were ready to adapt their life-styles and to become involved with trade and commerce. They also accepted the Western educational system, brought by the British, and Ibadan became (like Abeokuta, another refugee town) an educational centre.

The commercial areas main factories have been established near the railway line and the Lagos road. This has moved the economic centre of gravity a little to the west of the old city, making it the most populous state after Kano. In Ibadan itself there were 460,000 people in 1953 and 530,000 in 1963. In addition, in 1963, there was a rural population of more than 300,000 in a 20-mile radius. Within the eight and a half square miles contained by the old

Niger plastics industry, it will probably prosper if it continues to invest in education, improving its services, and encouraging the burgeoning Nigerian economy to encourage basic services are there, the

Ibadan. One publisher, Evans, now generates more sales and profits in Nigeria than in the United Kingdom. The Caxton Press was set up in Ibadan in 1956.

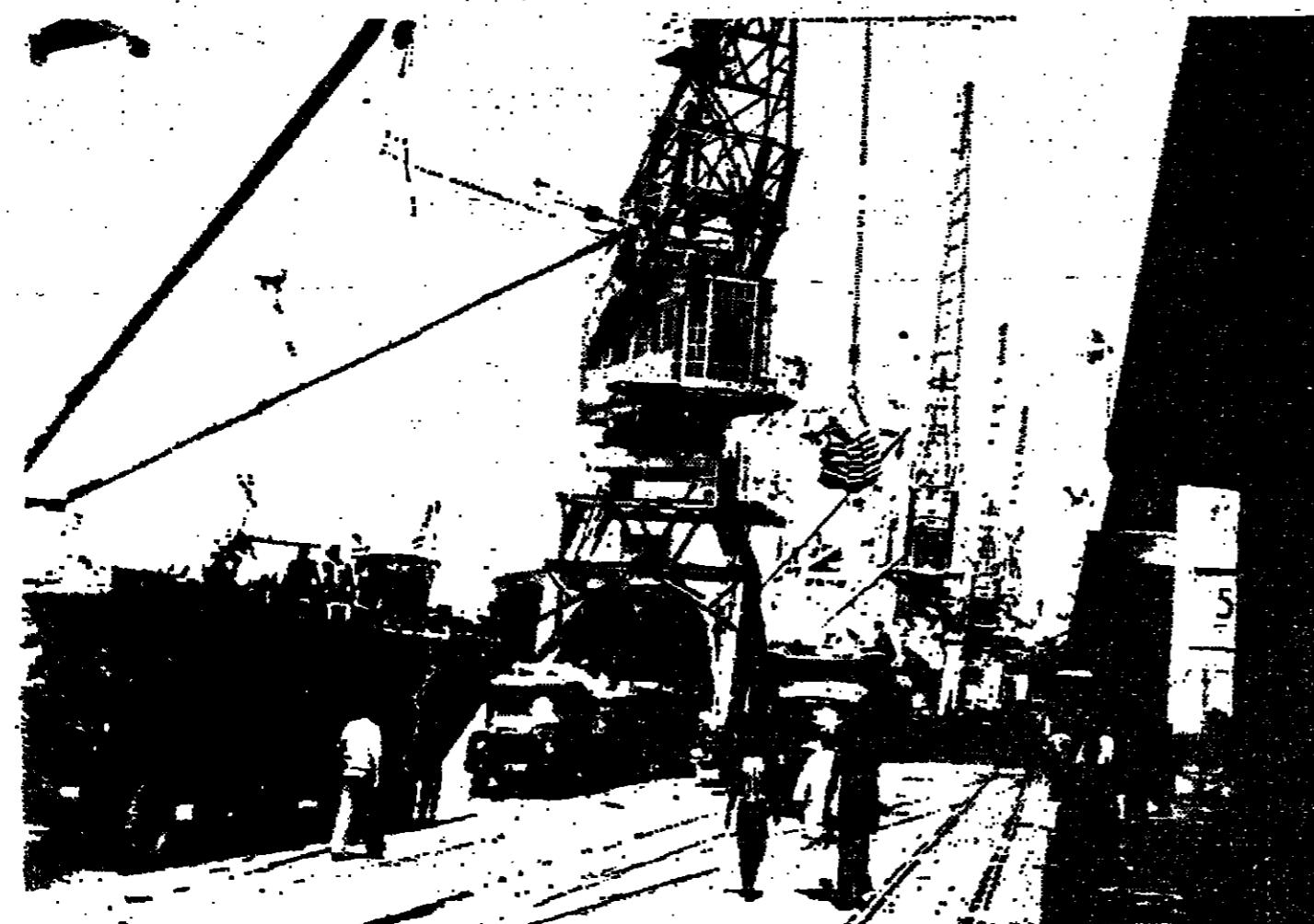
At the artistic level Ibadan can compete with any city in Nigeria. Traditional dyeing, weaving, and embroidery are still popular, and wood-workers such as the Falaye brothers produce articles of high quality. The chapel doors of the university are a fine example of the relief style of wood carving and near the university is the Dominican community housed in impressive buildings designed by Dennis Nwoko.

In some ways the future of Ibadan is uncertain; as the capital of a smaller state it has lost some of its importance. A teaching hospital and a polytechnic which between them have the two best bookshops in Nigeria. There is a teaching hospital and a number of research institutions such as Moor Plantation and the Forestry Research Institute.

The author, formerly a teacher in Western State, is a lecturer in African studies at the Centre for International Briefing, Farnham Castle.

NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY

— gateway to the nation's economy



- NIGERIAN PORTS ARE DEVELOPING

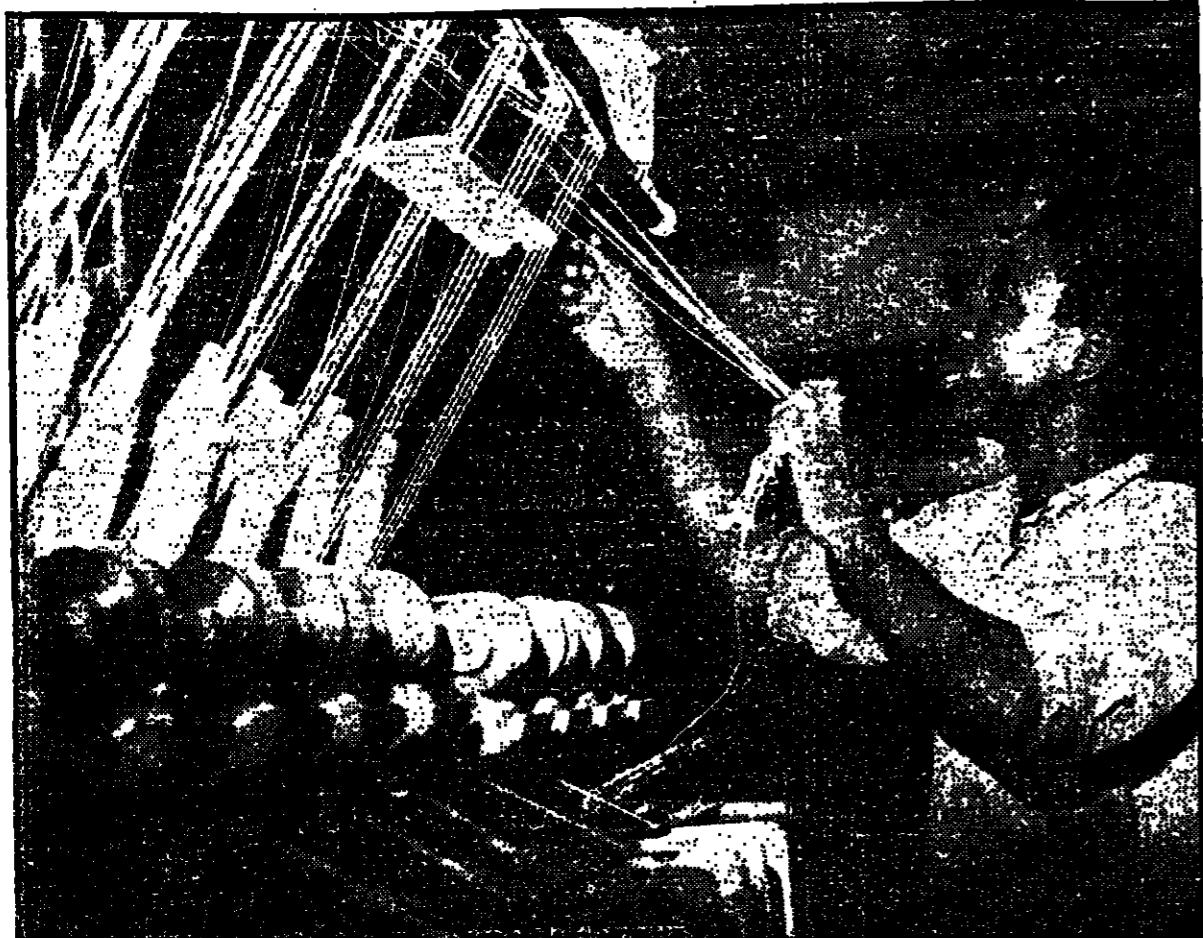
The third wharf extension to Apapa Port will be equipped with a Container Terminal and three conventional berths.

The new wharf at Tin Can Island has ten berths and a dockyard for repairs of small crafts and pilot launches.

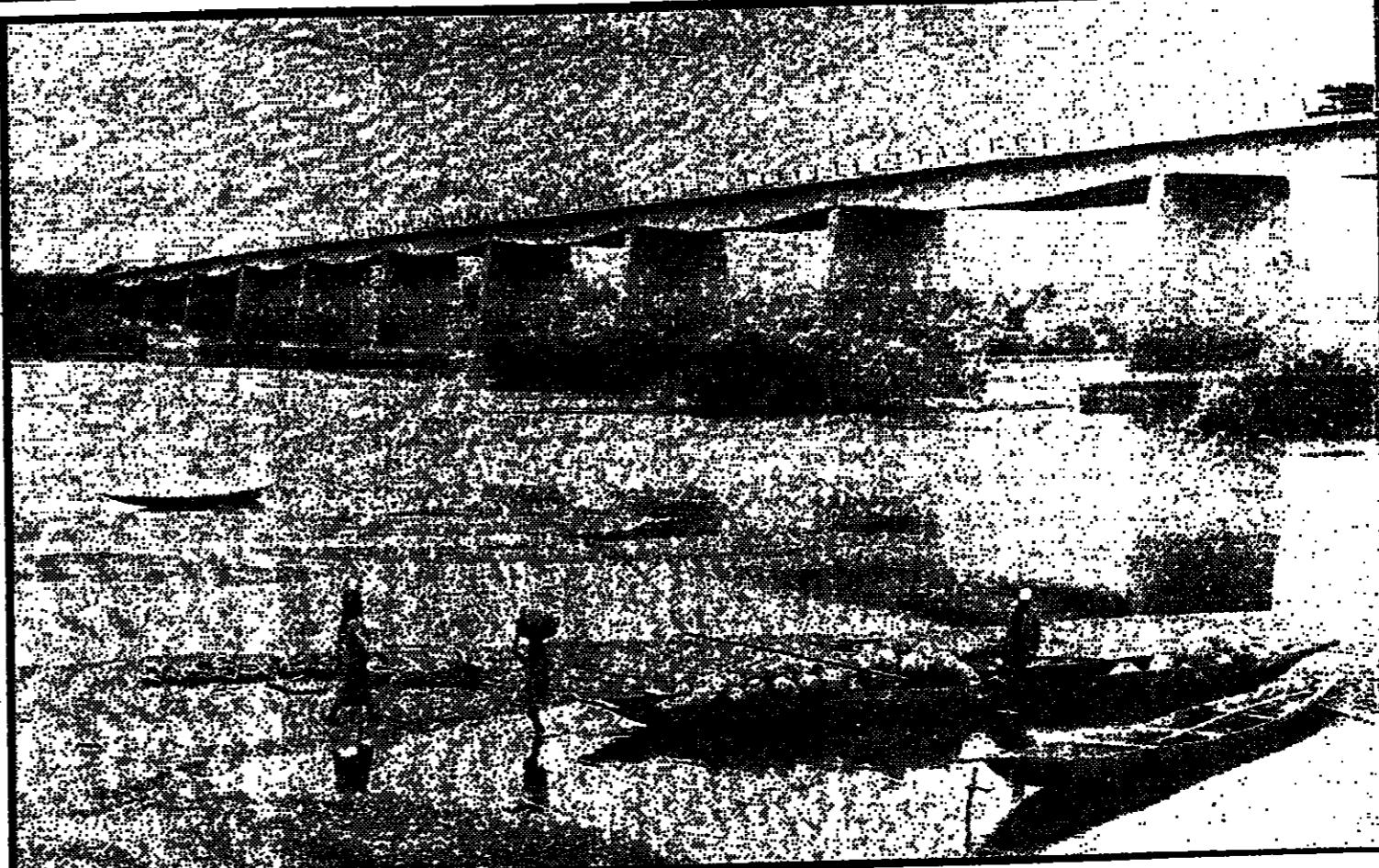
Port Harcourt wharf will have fifty additional berths; Warri Port six new berths and Calabar Port will have four berths at the new site.

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Cotton-spinning in Kano. This ancient, mud-walled city is now an industrial centre. Right: the Wuya bridge over the Kaduna river.



KANO

Ancient caravan terminus reflects national diversity

by Peter Hill

Outside the mud walls of the old city, traffic pours along the wide roads of the new Kano. Modern office blocks rise starkly. The cacophony of car horns and thunder of heavy lorries mixes with the braying of mules and the bleating of goats. Proud, robed men from the desert stride along the carriageways, swords slung casually over shoulders.

Kano, capital of the most populous of Nigeria's 19

states—the heart of the north—is a city of charm, character, culture and commerce; a city where ancient and modern blend into one but manage to preserve their originality.

Within the old walled city the Emir's palace stands imposingly over the sandy esplanade. Not far away lies the sprawling, teeming Kunki market, the commercial centre of the old city, where thousands of traders hawk a bewildering variety of wares. The market has been

Kano, perhaps more than any other major Nigerian city, reflects the wide diversity of cultural and

ethnic differences which exist within the federation. Its people and those six million to seven million people who live outside the metropolitan area in the bush which makes up most of Kano state's 16,650 sq miles, are predominantly Hausa followers of Islam.

For centuries the four emirates of Kano state (itself less than ten years old)—Kano, Hadejia, Kazaure and Gumi—have been the main influence on Nigeria's foreign exchange regulations, the traders are prepared to haggle and barter over transactions in most currencies.

Considerable attention is being paid to the improvement of agriculture to provide not only employment but also to meet the needs of a growing population and to generate income from exports. In the present five-year development programme (1975-80) N4.6m is being spent on forestry with a further N1.6m on fisheries and nearly N25m on live-stock and veterinary facilities. General agricultural projects, including irrigation schemes, will account for a massive N142.5m over the plant's term.

Earlier this year the first phase of the Hadejia Juna's River project was contracted out at a cost of N66.8m. The project involves the construction of both branch and distributary canals and irrigation facilities for 22,000 hectares. When the three phases of the project have been completed an estimated 57,000 hectares will have been irrigated. Consideration is being given to the construction of a glass factory and work is continuing on the development of new industrial estates.

The Kano plant has been producing tyres at 75% and half times its design volume to keep pace with demand. Two months ago the company announced a major expansion programme costing N4m to keep pace with demand in the next decade, against the background of a 50 per cent rise in annual sales since the plant was established.

Last year Kano state received applications from 34 private sector concerns representing a total investment of about N25m in industry, which will employ about 6,000 people in the production of wool and fur, leather, textiles and chemical products. Consideration is being given to the construction of a glass factory and work is continuing on the development of new industrial estates.

Earlier this year a contract was signed for the design and construction of an oil refinery at Kaduna. The refinery is due to be completed in 1980 and will have a daily capacity for refining 100,000 barrels of crude oil. It will produce gas for cooking, two grades of petrol, fuel oil, kerosene, waxes and asphalt.

The refinery is planned to alleviate the chronic fuel



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حکم امنی اصل

KADUNA

A colonial relic in the throes of change

Dusk is falling as the polo ponies thunder across the colonial settlers and administrators. With an airport being extended to international standards, good roads spreading out to the main towns in other parts of Nigeria, and an important rail junction, Kaduna's central position will ensure that it continues to play an important role in the development of Nigeria.

Kaduna is the centre of the textile industry and although its commercial importance is not as great as that of Kano, its industries are growing in importance. There are seven textile mills employing about 20,000 people and it is reckoned that the industry supports over 200,000 people in the area. It was established at Kaduna because of the cotton and availability of water and manpower. Annual output has reached about 280 million square metres.

Efforts are being made to attract both large and small-scale industries to Kaduna. In the past few months the state government, in cooperation with local business interests, has completed plans for establishing a variety of industries including plastics, galvanized steel and soft drinks.

The emphasis of this year's N383.3m budget for Kaduna state is on the development of education. The state has the fourth largest population in Nigeria—four million and is fifth largest in area.

Agriculture still important

Central position ensures city's future

Kaduna was established by Lord Lugard as the capital of Northern Nigeria and in the gardens which carry his name, a small iron bridge, built in Aberdeen, shipped to Lagos and transported overland, straddles a small creek which feeds into the river Kaduna—the Hausa plural for the crocodiles which once lurked in its murky waters.

The city which Lugard founded is now the administrative capital of Kaduna state an area which covers about 27,000 sq miles of

tropical savannah whose tem-

peratures which befall the world's fifth largest crude oil producer. Japan's Chiyoda Chemical Engineering and Construction Company is building the complex which will receive its crude oil from a pipeline linked to the Warri refinery. Initially the line will provide petroleum products from the Warri refinery for distribution in the Kaduna area.

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Agriculture still important

The economy is still largely dependent on agriculture, which produces a wide variety of crops, including peppers, yams, cassava, rice, cotton, groundnuts, maize and guinea corn. Considerable potential for tobacco growing exists although production is restricted by the requirements of local processors. There are export opportunities however.

With its central position and pleasant climate, Kaduna faces the future with confidence. Plans for the development of the new federal capital at Abuja, not far away, will have an impact on the further development of Kaduna itself as a base for building the new city.

P.H.

PORT HARBOUR

An unenviable reputation for lawlessness

Port Harcourt, capital of Rivers state, Nigeria's second largest port and operational centre, for much of the oil industry has achieved a reputation for lawlessness and a *lax* police campaign is under way to halt the spate of armed robberies. Citizens must observe a midnight to 6 am curfew imposed by the military governor in an attempt to check armed gangs.

Early last month soldiers and mobile police clashed in Port Harcourt after an incident at the airport involving an army officer and the mobile police. A police sergeant was shot dead. A week later a gang of armed robbers mounted a road block on one of the main roads leading out of the city, attacking more than 50 vehicles were stripped and an estimated 800 people found themselves forced to hand over money and possessions.

Rivers is a huge state of about 28,000 sq km and its creeks and swamps provide excellent bases for the robber bands. Port Harcourt itself, a sprawling city, provides the focal point for much of the state's industrial activity although a large number of the 1,700,000 population (1963 census) make their living from farming and fishing. New federal and state government offices blocks have been built since the civil war and most of the buildings damaged during the war have been rebuilt.

The capital boasts a college of science and technology and a new university college is being built. Industries within the city's boundaries include basic building, aluminium products and the manufacture of soft drinks, tyres, traps and cigarettes. But it is the oil industry which is preeminent.

All the major oil companies in Nigeria have their headquarters in Port Harcourt. Rivers is the leading oil-producing state in the federation accounting for nearly 50 per cent of all production. Two jetties have been built for oil exports.

Oil has placed considerable strains on the city's hotel although it has been alleviated to some extent by the completion of a new hotel and an extension to Presidential Hotel, which will be ready for occupation next year.

But the oil and gas industry and the revenues which flow from it have produced other strains and tensions. Rivers receives more a head from federal revenue than other states but the questions of derivation and the pressure for an even greater allocation are likely to

remain issues for some considerable time.

The oil industry has provided the motive power for Nigeria's ambitious third national development plan. But since the plan was drawn up three years ago it quickly became apparent that the spending levels which were projected for industrial and associated development based on increased oil revenues could not be met. Crude oil output in fact reached a peak of 2,500,000 barrels daily in October, 1974, but fell to 1,500,000 barrels in May, 1975, just two months after the plan was launched.

In the same period the posted price of Nigeria low sulphur light crude also fell and seriously undermined financial calculations.

Production increased to about 2,500,000 barrels a day in May this year but has since fallen back and at the end of last year. They were not disappointed. The Government produced a package of incentives which will be considered overpricing compared with other light low sulphur crudes produced in Algeria, Indonesia and Libya. The relative overpricing has been compounded by a glut of this type of oil, partly as a result of increased flows from the North Sea, whose oil is very similar to the crude produced from Nigerian fields.

Oil experts in Nigeria, however, reckon that a daily companies being allowed to bring on stream a new field near Nembe Creek.

authorize their investment which lies some distance away from existing fields in instalments, although 1 per cent of each asset must be retained in the books until the Government authorizes disposal.

Companies which have

found oil receive a capital investment tax credit of 5 per cent for land operations and up to 10 per cent for operations in offshore areas in water depths up to 100 metres, rising to 20 per cent for offshore operations in water up to 200 metres. Costs of all exploratory drilling and the first two test wells on each field under the new provisions will be fully offset against tax while companies which have just begun production will be taxed at 65.75 per cent until the preproduction costs have been recovered. Finally, the Governor has said that the existing 20 per cent royalty will be retained for onshore operations but will be reduced to 18.5 per cent for production from offshore wells in water depths up to 100ft, and 16.5 per cent in depths of more than 100ft.

Shell/BP, which operates

in partnership with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, is the largest producing company in Nigeria and as a direct result of the new measures it has brought an exploration rig back into operation.

The company is planning to bring on stream a new

P.H.

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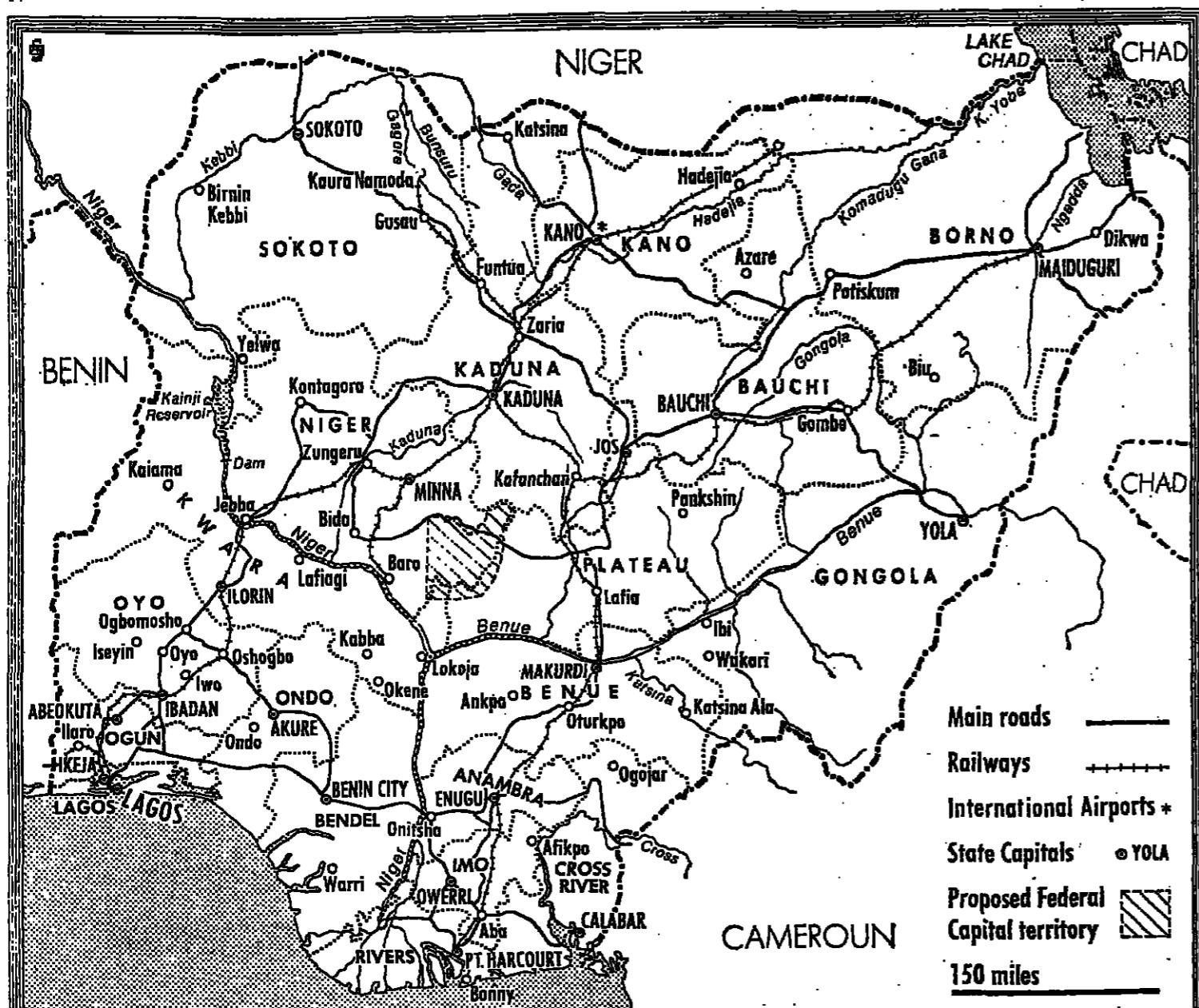
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Left: work goes ahead on the Lagos/Ibadan expressway: Above left: "The Awakening", a bronze symbolic of the renewal of independence. Above right: traffic in the centre of Lagos. Top: Lagos regatta.

LAGOS

City hurries to improve

by Peter Hill

Lagos is the nightmare that is becoming merely a bad dream. The traffic chokes the roads and streets of the federal capital, compounding the already debilitating climate with exhaust fumes; the telephone system is as temperamental as a prima donna; and the taxicab drivers model their driving style on that of Nicki Lauda and have developed a cat horn Morse code to carve their way through the packed streets—they are all familiar and accepted features of life in Lagos.

The shortcomings are recognized and significant improvements have been made over the past two years, but Lagos is a city in a hurry, seething with people and stretching at its increasingly elastic seams so that the benefits of a much-improved road system have not yet been realized.

No one knows exactly how many people live (and many simply exist) in the Lagos conurbation. Maps still issued by the Lagos state Government quote a figure of some 565,000 people based on the 1963 census—but even on a conservative basis most would put the capital's population at more than five times that figure.

It is a city of stark and quite dramatic contrasts. On Ikoyi and Victoria Islands, populated by a high proportion of expatriates and extremely wealthy Nigerians, large stately detached mansions with carefully nurtured gardens stand out as tangible evidence of the wealth which has been created in the wake of Nigeria's emergence as black Africa's super power.

Yet only a few miles away along the snoring, arching elevated roadways which snake through and over the sprawling city, in the suburbs of Mushin or Ajegunle, hundreds of thousands of people are living in shanties, and families are crowded into tiny "houses".

The stench of open drains and piles of refuse rotting is all pervasive. In short, the conditions are appalling yet people survive, but the pressures on Lagos grow and grow as increasing numbers of Nigerians flock from the hinterland to the capital city, as they have done for generations.

The new roads which curve their way through the sprawling conurbation have provided accommodation for

thousands of people. Traders have established their stands beneath the thunder of the road traffic, and even the number of registrants apparently unmoved and oblivious to it.

Overcrowded conditions and the difficulties of actually getting to work, which led the Lagos state Government to transfer the state capital to Ikeja, more than 10 miles from the city of Lagos.

Lagos remains the magnet for millions of Nigerians and foreign businessmen despite its considerable privations.

But even the Nigerian businessmen are becoming concerned at the tension which the city's conditions create.

Considerable progress has been made in the past two years to relieve the congestion. The as yet uncompleted inner ring road is having a beneficial effect on reducing congestion in the

central part of the city. The road traffic eases under the cover of odd and even number registrations, and planes are allowed on the roads on alternate days.

For those who can afford a second car (and they are not few) the edict enforced by civil and military police armed with kobokos has not proved too onerous.

Further improvements to promote the freer flow of traffic and reduce the accident toll form a feature of the state Government's policies.

New car parks are planned along with parking and terminal facilities for heavy commercial vehicles.

Additional vehicles are being brought for the underdeveloped and overstratified Lagos city transport service with the aim of developing a "park and ride" system to make

Lagos free of vehicles at particular times of the day.

In the present financial year the Lagos state Government plans to spend a total of N474.5m on both recurrent and capital expenditure with the highest outlays being made on education, health and public works.

A total of N22m is being spent on the construction of additional (and much needed) low-income housing units. Federal government assistance will amount to N62.8m in the course of the year.

Determined efforts are being made to clean up the city and present a more acceptable face to other parts of the country and the outside world. Budget provisions include the construction of two substantial incinerators and a combined incinerating and composting

plant. It will be a long hard haul.

Yet, having identified the priority for action to transform the city's unenviable image and recognized the monumental task which face them, the state Government's planners are continuing the development of a holiday resort on Topo island to attract both local and international tourists.

The wisdom of federal government plans for spending large sums on the establishment of a new federal capital in the centre of the country has been questioned.

Similarly, there must be many residents in the socially deprived areas of Lagos who would prefer to see even more emphasis placed on tackling the more fundamental questions of Lagos state than on tourist developments.

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هذه أمان الأجل

BENUE AND PLATEAU

Tiv and Idoma are given chance to realize potential

By Martin Dent

ernmental tradition and political culture of the Muslim emirs of the far north, it was hoped that they would more than make up for this in their fresh energy and desire for education and development. In all Nigerian terms the promise was fulfilled.

From an area where the Hausa culture of the Muslim north met with the Christian culture of his own people. He was a man of the minorities and a northerner at the same time. His background and his character combined to enable him to give the leadership that Nigeria so desperately needed to preserve its unity and then to welcome back the Ibos.

In this task he was assisted by other Benue-Plateau figures such as the late chief of staff, Joe Akaikan, the Federal Commissioner, Tarka, and the head of the federal foreign service, Edwin Ogbu.

Jos has always been a cosmopolitan city with a liberal ethos composed as it is almost exclusively of "strangers to the soil". Before the war the Ibos had comprised more than half the population and when it was over Gowon, the state governor, was overjoyed to welcome them back. Likewise Makurdi, the town in Benue, rapidly recovered its Ibos.

Internally, however, the state fared less well. Gowon, a graduate who had eventually joined the police, came from the same Anganwinski as General Gowon. The people of Plateau are more tribally varied and less numerous than those of Benue. The Birkins alone numbered more than 200,000. The Angas, the Yorungs, the Sura, the Ankiwe, the people of Waso and a host of other small groups, with their separate identity contrasted with the large tribal groups of Benue, the Tiv and the Idoma.

The Tiv numbered nearly two million out of the four from Bauchi emirate and million or five million people joined the peoples of Plateau in the state. They were few, with whom they had

feared, by their Plateau neighbours because of their intense sense of identity, their drive and vigour and their physical expansion, as their family compounds of deep-thatched huts spread out into neighbouring lands.

Wukari, despite its majority of Tiv population, was removed from Benue and added to Gongola to the east. Benue was, however, much enriched by the addition to the state of the dynamic and developed people of Igala, whose territory stretches as far as the east bank of the Niger, and who had felt a little left out in the predominantly Yoruba character of Kwara to which they had previously belonged.

Makurdi, so long neglected as a town, became at last a centre and headquarters for a state government and the Tiv and Idoma have found their chance to show what they can do in a state in which they are no longer bereft of power. Both Benue and Plateau have military governors from outside the states appointed by the Federal Government, but otherwise the senior people are representative of all parts of the state.

Jos, the capital of Plateau, was founded for tin, and the tin-mining community left its mark in the attractive houses and gardens, the layout and in better facilities than those in any other comparable town in Nigeria.

However, the people benefited from the corrective policies of Murtala Muhammad, General Gowon's successor. A new and sympathetic governor, Muhammad Abdulsalih from Ilorin, took Gowon's place and the corruptions of the old regime were investigated, made public and corrected. The assets of Gowon's successor were seized.

Relations became much less tense but when the Ilekite commission arrived to hear evidence for the creation of more states Benue was found to be willing to continue the association but Plateau was not and the state had to be divided.

The commission had the courage to make radical boundary changes. The Jarawa people of the east of the plateau were excised from the large tribal groups of Benue, the Tiv and the Idoma.

The Tiv numbered nearly two million out of the four from Bauchi emirate and million or five million people joined the peoples of Plateau in the state. They were few, with whom they had

far more in common. The small emirates of Lafia, Nasarawa and Keffi were taken out of Benue and joined to Plateau.

Relations, as in the same deteriorated, as did those between the Federal Commissioner, Tarka, from Tiv, and the Governor, Gowon, from Plateau. Allegations of corruption soon followed as did those of tribal favouritism, and the Tiv and Idoma began to feel themselves subject to discrimination.

Courage to denounce corruption

The bogus company Vosenicks, whose directors were personalities in Jos close to the Governor, siphoned off a lot of state finance and produced no finished contracts. Finally the detention by General Gowon of the Tiv teacher and businessman Aku, who had the courage to denounce Gowon's corruption in detail by affidavit, signalled the end of the regime. Hardly had he been released when Benue and Plateau lost their leadership.

At this time it produced only half of the fighting men of the Nigerian army. Yet more the Biafrans seized its hopes of separation were fulfilled.

Internally, however, the state fared less well. Gowon, a graduate who had eventually joined the police, came from the same Anganwinski as General Gowon. The people of Plateau are more tribally varied and less numerous than those of Benue. The Birkins alone numbered more than 200,000.

The Angas, the Yorungs, the Sura, the Ankiwe, the people of Waso and a host of other small groups, with their separate identity contrasted with the large tribal groups of Benue, the Tiv and the Idoma.

The Tiv numbered nearly two million out of the four from Bauchi emirate and million or five million people joined the peoples of Plateau in the state. They were few, with whom they had

its social structure is peculiarly liberal and cosmopolitan. It combines intense civic vitality and corporate sense with the existence of effective ethnic associations among its inhabitants, who keep closely to those of their own group and expect to return to their home areas when they retire.

However, this effect is not divisible because of the number of cross-cutting associations of a religious, social, economic or sporting kind, and because of the wisdom of each group in cooperating with others.

The tin wealth of Jos has declined. Once the most important mineral in the Nigerian national economy,

it now produces less than 4 per cent of the wealth

generated in oil. Production

has sunk from nearly 20,000

tons at the peak to less than 5,000. But still employs nearly 20,000 labourers and technicians and 1,000 or so freelance "tributaries", who

are on their own and sell

Chancellor is an Ibo profes-

or of medicine. In time it

will no doubt draw on the

enormous potential of both

possible to inject new life

into the industry and to

develop deeper ore strata as

the old become exhausted.

Nigeria produces only about

3 per cent of world supply,

and any expansion involves

an increase in the quota

under the Tin Agreement.

Jos tin is smelted locally at

Makurdi.

The town is also an industrial and training centre and has a fair amount of light

industry — tyre retreading,

soft drinks and so on. There

is a proposal for a brewery

of a large number of expatri-

ate staff on contract.

Local agriculture is not

as yet very productive in

towns in Nigeria, but its

potential is enormous. The

achievement of that potential

involves efficient operation

and good results, and there is

no reason why, given

the right conditions, it will

not be possible to increase

agriculture in the towns.

With the launching of uni-

versal primary education in

the 1975-80 development

plan, the two states are ex-

pected to build 12,000 pri-

mary school classrooms and

to take in 250,000 pupils.

The teacher training, sec-

ondary and university expansion

plan, the two states are ex-

pected to take off its uniform

in 1979 and contest elections

with some hope of winning.

But perhaps he will prefer a

military career.

Bishop Ganaka of Jos is

one of the outstanding

figures in the Roman Catho-

lic church and exercises

wide influence in the com-

munity as a whole. A

Platesau man has also been

appointed to the military

governorship of another

state. One can always tell Tiv

farmers by the great size

of the yam heaps. The old

cash crops of beniseed and

soyabean have been almost

entirely replaced by cultiva-

tion of food crops for sale.

not develop some of the distrust. The same nation-building skill which is required at the national level

to hold disparate peoples together and give them a sense of common belonging

is needed just as much at the state level.

This kind of skill will be more than ever necessary

with the return to civilian rule and the presidential

and gubernatorial elections.

In the latter there is only

one vote, instead of a runoff

system, and no requirement

to show a spread of support.

The candidate with the largest vote will

win and it is therefore pos-

sible for a person to win

the governorship by the sup-

port of the largest tribe.

It is important that the

political leaders should

show the necessary ability

in forming party alliances

and in striking trading off sup-

port for the smallest level

for that of another at the state governorship level.

In industrial terms Benue was one of the most developed areas in Nigeria, until the advent of the Murtala Muhammad government. Then at last approval was given for the huge cement works at Yandev, which has now been built and will begin work as soon as electric power reaches the site and the Makurdi-Boko road is brought up to standard.

The limestone is of the highest quality and plenty of industrial labour and technical skill are available, but for 10 years the scheme has been held up by political jealousies. It has a potential capacity of 600,000 tons a year (almost equal to Nigeria's entire cement consumption for 60 years).

Other projects are also to

be built in the state — a ceramic factory, a brickworks

and a brewery. Wherever one

goes in Tiv people remark

with pride on how changed

the towns are since colonial

days when I was first there.

To the Tiv industrial, com-

mercial and educational ad-

vances new buildings and

new roads are not just con-

veniences or sources of

income but valued symbols

of achievement and mod-

esty.

The full potential of these two states is only just begin-

ning to be developed.

Several of its personalities

are playing leading role in

the Constituent Assembly

now in session, especially

Justin Tsoyva, the first Tiv

professor and head of the

sociology department at Jos.

With the return of civilian

rule there will be plenty of

new contenders for office as

such as the older figures

such as Tarka. However,

whatever happens, it is vital

that Tiv should not go back

to ruinous internal political

quarrels.

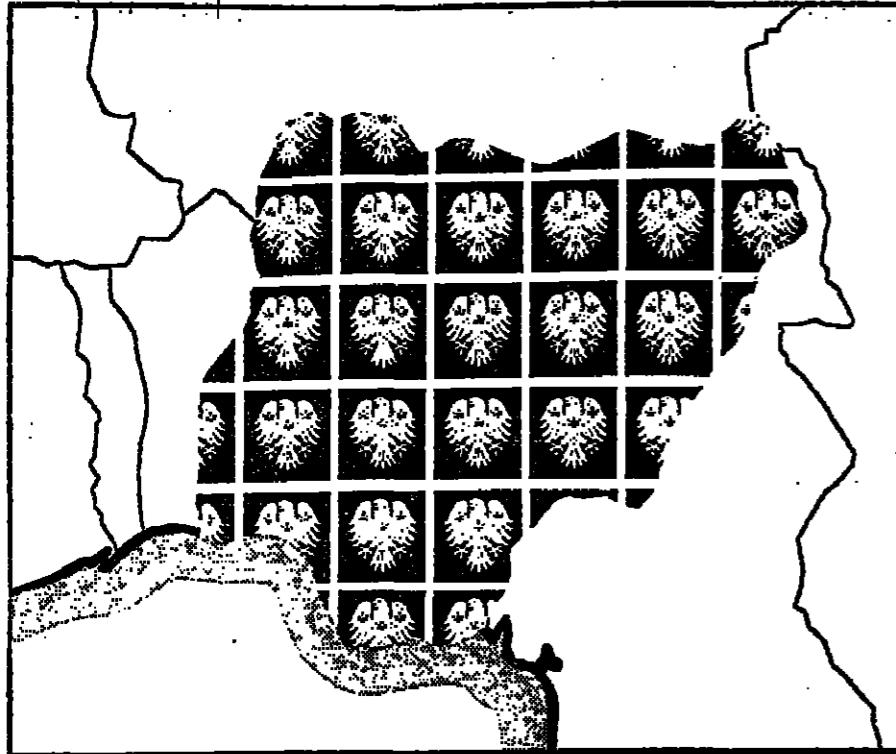
It is even more important

that all the politicians of

Benue and of Plateau should

learn to build the alliance

which they need if they are



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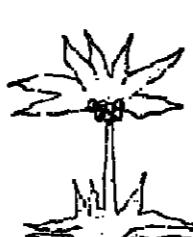


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Horsemen in colourful robes, mounted on equally gorgeously caparisoned steeds, parade before demonstrating a cavalry charge at the annual Sallah Festival in Nigeria. The festival, which marks the end of the feast of Ramadan, is held in a number of northern towns.

SOKOTO

Education and industry reach isolated seat of Islam

by Edward Poulton

Sokoto state, gateway to north-western Nigeria and formerly one of the most isolated regions of the federation, is learning fast to accommodate its traditional custodians of the seat of Islam in Nigeria with a desperate need for modern secular education and industrialisation.

The home of Sultan Abubakar III, descendant of the Islamic reformer Shehu Usman Dan Fodio and spiritual leader of all Nigerian Muslims, Sokoto has existed as a state only since February 1976, when, with Niger to the south, it was created from the former North-West state.

The fact that Sokoto city was the capital of the former north-west and could therefore accommodate the physical needs of the new administration has barely compensated for the loss of the functionaries of Niger state origin who moved to Minna to set up their own government organization. Although the two states still operate some common services it will take several years for Sokoto to be able to meet fully its own manpower needs.

In a country seeking to cement its post-civil war unity before the programmed return to civilian rule in October 1979 it has become unfashionable to talk of ethnic composition in political terms. However, if Zaria, Kaduna and the coast—good enough to carry the overland freight convoys from Europe and still attract travellers away from the hassle of domestic flying, and the rural electrification programme should bring power to 11 additional towns by 1980, the new pupils are girls whose mothers and older sisters are in purdah.

In statistical terms, Sokoto has, in only two years, more than quadrupled the number

state's population remains the 1963 census figure of about 4,500,000. (The late head of state, General Murtala Muhammad, cancelled the discredited 1973 census and ordered the earlier figures to be used for planning purposes.) But a quick tally of the estimated population in each of the 19 local government administrations in the state produces a total of about 6,500,000.

The state Governor, Colonel Umaru Alkaji Muhammad, has made education the first priority in a government area which, more than any other in the federation, is suffering from a critical manpower shortage at the technical and middle executive levels. All the ministries are badly understaffed, the ultra-modern television station is working successfully with less than half its complement, and several departments of the young university, just beginning its first academic year, have only one lecturer.

The problems of services and communications which confronted Sokoto state when it was created last year are gradually being overcome by short and medium-term capital investment schemes under the present five-year development plan. A new visitor is surprised by the greenness and well-watered public gardens of the capital city of one of Nigeria's older states.

The roads north to Niger and the Sahara and south to Zaria, Kaduna and the coast—good enough to carry the overland freight convoys from Europe and still attract travellers away from the hassle of domestic flying, and the rural electrification programme should bring power to 11 additional towns by 1980, the new pupils are girls whose mothers and older sisters are in purdah.

The total of 2,500 primary schools (an increase of 804



Hundreds of fishermen, using hollow gourds as combined buoys and containers, plunge into the river during the annual fishing festival at Argungu, south-west Sokoto. The heaviest catch wins a prize.

many school. From a first-year intake of just over 22,000 in 1975 the figure has jumped to about 100,000 last September. This is mainly because of the launching of the federal Government's universal primary education scheme, but the scheme would have been far less successful without the active support of the state Government. A significant number of the new pupils are girls whose mothers and older sisters are in purdah.

Only a year ago) now holds almost 278,000 children, and as far as possible the education authorities are holding the size of classes down to a maximum of 40 children. This is not always possible because of a shortage of both teachers and classrooms, and the Ministry cannot afford to turn people away after months of persuading parents to send their children to school.

The bottleneck comes at the end of the primary education period, for at the moment the state has only 27 secondary schools with an enrolment of about 20,000 students, plus 25 teachers' training colleges. Until last year there were only four secondary schools for girls.

At the further education level, Sokoto has so far provided only 86 students for the technical manpower training courses which in the past few weeks have seen several thousand young Nigerians flying to Europe and the United States for specialist courses.

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The final section of the report looks at contemporary cultural activities in the west, north and east of the federation
YORUBAS

Old crafts come to terms with modern ways

by Kevin Carroll

The Yoruba, 12 million strong, are the chief people of south-west Nigeria. Their traditional arts survive with varying degrees of vitality, despite sophisticated modern art.

The most notable craft is woodcarving, and the Yoruba carvers' tradition was the most vigorous in Africa. But where hundreds of carvers worked early this century, I doubt that we could find 50 today. They worked for the chiefs, the cults and the people.

Nowadays, however, chiefs build in modern materials and feel little need for carved pillars and doors. Orders to the carvers from the cults have become a trickle as most Yoruba are now nominally at least, Muslim or Christian.

Along the border of Dahomey, now called Benin, the Egbado Yoruba carvers still produce cult objects. Their Gelede masks represent not only traditional subjects but also ladies and a craft, prominent politicians and Christian subjects. Among the Egbado Yoruba at Abeokuta, there is a guild of carvers working for both the cults and the tourist trade.

But it is the carvers of Edo in south-east Yoruba who have most successfully adapted to the new Nigeria. The church was the first to give them modern patronage when, 30 years ago, Bandele was asked to carve Christian subjects. He was the son of Areogun of Oei, one of the greatest Yoruba carvers known by name to the outside world. Increasing orders prompted Bandele to take on as assistant Lamidi, son of a noted carver, Fakye of Ile Orangun.

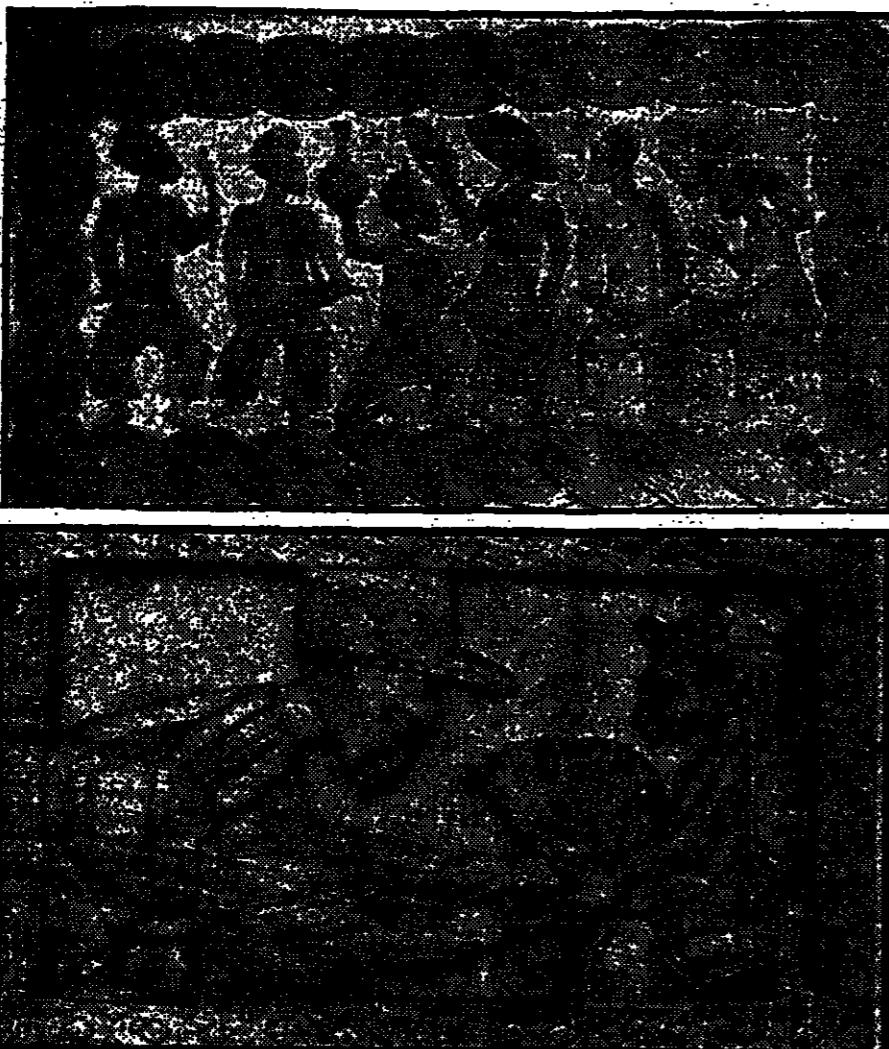
Bandele remains a member of the traditional religion and Lamidi is a devout Muslim. Alongside their Christian carvings, both continued to produce for the chiefs and the cults, though orders from the sects were few.

Several years later, as their work became more widely known, they were given contracts for work on official buildings, for example, pillars and doors for the Idena gatehouse of the Oba's palace at Ile, in 1953. Chief Awolowo, the first Premier of the Western Region, encouraged the use of Yoruba art, and in 1956 Lamidi Fakye carved the furniture for the House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs at Ibadan, as well as panels for the Premier's office.

Encouraged by improved prospects, Bandele and Lamidi took on apprentices. After their three years' training, these apprentices would continue to work with their masters as apprentices until they found their own feet and went off to start their own workshops.

Now 30 or more carvers of the Oei school can be found, many of them working in the big centres—Lagos, Ibadan, Oyo, Ilorin, Ife, Oshogbo—and each with his own apprentices. A considerable amount of their work is sold to foreigners but, increasingly, contracts come from state and church and other sources within Nigeria.

After the introduction of universal primary education in southern Nigeria 25 years ago, most of the younger car-



Right: Daniel Bamidele working on a cement mural for the Ibadan Cultural Centre. Traditional woodcarvers find it easy to transfer their skill to fresh cement. Top: another of his murals for the centre representing Yoruba musicians and dancers. Above: one of a set of Stations of the Cross, the burial of Jesus, carved by Joseph Imale.



vers are now literate, and weaving and a large amount of some go on to secondary or brilliant Ojene cloth is poor roads. school, making money by sold all over Nigeria. There used to be many carvers in their spare time, but the women were taken for granted that is no similar large centre in Yoruba land, but the women continue to weave in many European music would be used in Nigerian churches, places; for example in Ijebu-ododo they weave cloth and is now a lecturer there. and is now a lecturer there. His younger brother, Michael, a brilliant carver, is doing fine arts in the same university.

Most of the hand-woven cloth today is produced on the men's narrow loom.

There are weavers' guilds in the forest, and recently Gabriel showed me blisters on his hands, complaining that they became soft during the term. These two carvers link the old Yoruba tradition with the world of international art, and it will be interesting to watch their progress.

Textile crafts continue to flourish, as even the most sophisticated person will have a range of traditional robes. Industry produces imitations of the old textiles, but cannot imitate the beautiful "crusy" effect of the handwork. There is probably far more handweaving today than there was 100 years ago. The weavers cannot compete with modern looms in the production of cheap cloth, but they have found their place in the luxury market.

Thirty years ago most women wove their indigo and white striped cloth on the vertical, broadloom. Now the use of this loom is restricted to certain areas. Okene, an Igbo town on the borders of Yoruba land, is a flourishing centre for women's home-

weaving. The weavers cannot compete with modern looms in the production of cheap cloth, but they have found their place in the luxury market.

Yoruba, like the famous indigo and white resist-dyed calico, is still popular and is sold all over West Africa. Central Abeokuta is one great dyeing factory pervaded by the smell of dye pots, with cloth spread over rocks and poles to dry. Indigo, although fast to washing, is unfortunately not fast to rubbing. So washing, is unfortunately not fast to rubbing. So

With the growth of national consciousness after independence there has been an explosion, as it were, of Yoruba church music, drawing on sources ranging from modern Yoruba pop to the deepest religious chants. New hymnbooks keep appearing all over the country and church authorities discuss whether there is any way to control this explosion without stifling the creativity.

In city churches with mixed congregations speaking several languages much of the European music may survive. But in fully Yoruba-speaking churches, wherever the European music is not already extinct, it is being rapidly replaced by the new music.

The question of parangon is crucial for the development of Nigerian crafts. Craftsmen will not be able to get apprentices unless there are prospects of sufficient work. The textile crafts are flourishing because the early political leaders made the wearing of Nigerian dress a symbol of freedom. But woodcarving, the greatest of the Yoruba crafts, has not been sufficiently patronized in modern times.

The state and churches, banks and hotels, and more recently chiefs and private individuals, have given contracts to the carvers. But many new state buildings, churches and private mansions are being built, and a lot more work could be found for the carvers—as for other artists—in the decoration of these buildings and their furnishings.

Pottery, however, has not been made redundant by the profusion of modern utensils. As long as the women continue to cook over open fires they will continue to buy the traditional pots, which are both cheap and functional. Pots are produced in great numbers in many towns and villages, ranging from huge pots for indigo dyeing to tiny decorated pots used in worshipping the river goddesses.

In some villages all the open spaces are covered with drying pots, and on market day they are stacked high ready to be packed into lorries. It is hard to understand how the pots can reach their destination with

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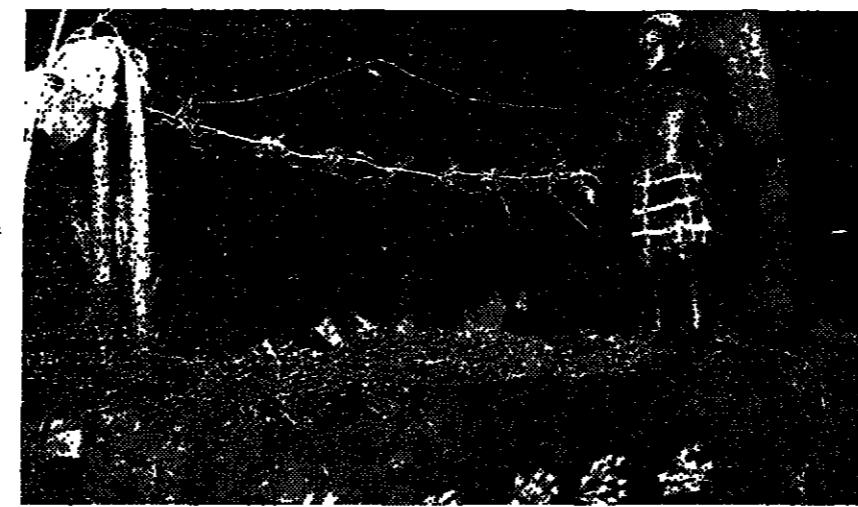
AGRICULTURE.—To boost Operation Feed the Nation Campaign (OFN) land development scheme was introduced in the State. Picture shows a tractor clearing the land ready for planting.



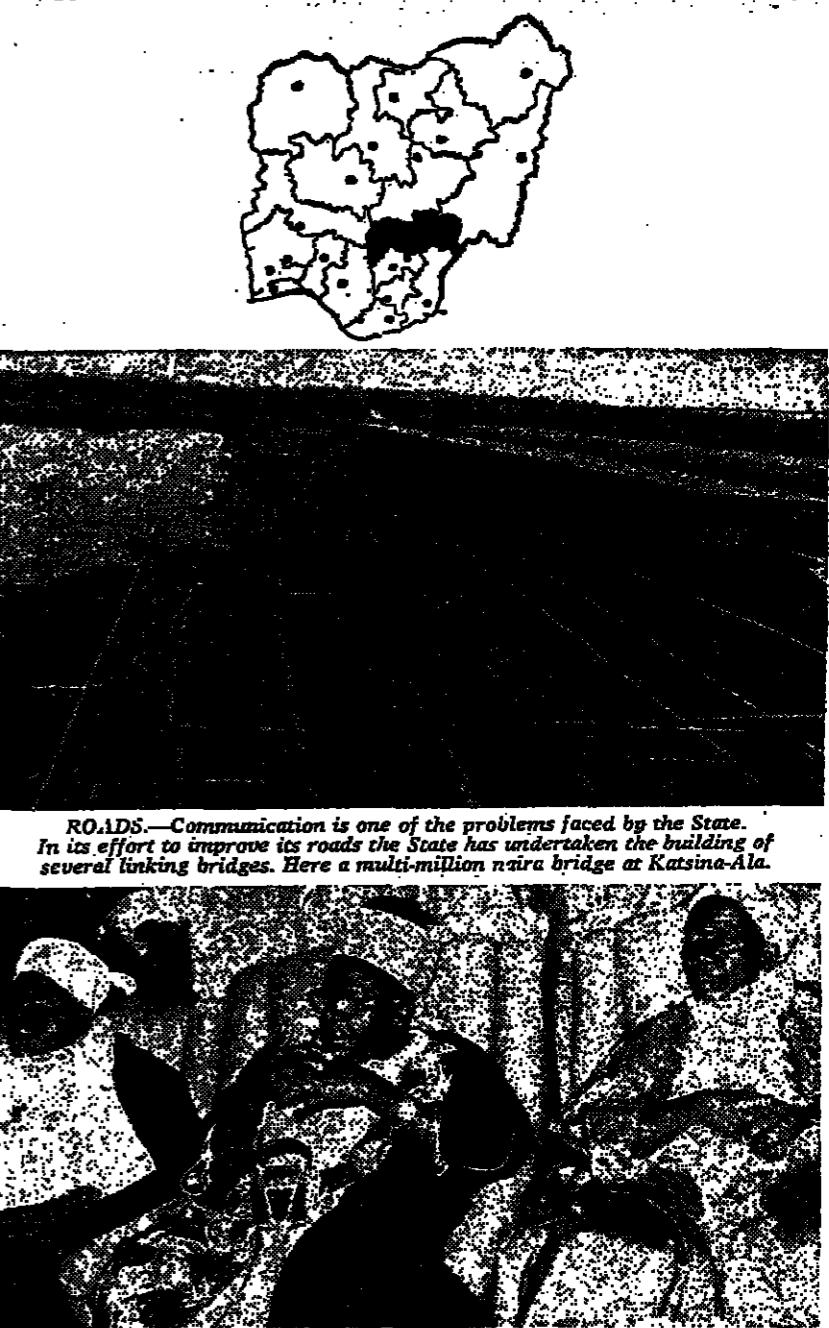
EDUCATION.—With the introduction of UPE education is no longer the privilege of the rich few.



GOVERNOR.—The Military Governor of Benue State, Colonel Abdullahi Shelle who handles the affairs of the State.



CULTURE.—The State is rich in culture. The Cultural Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Information entertains people in Makurdi to cultural nights.



ROADS.—Communication is one of the problems faced by the State. In its effort to improve its roads the State has undertaken the building of several linking bridges. Here a multi-million naira bridge at Katsina-Ala.

TRADITIONAL RULERS.—The three first class traditional rulers in Benue State. From left to right seated are the Attah of Igala, CBE, CON, Alhaji Aliyu Obaje; the Tor Vir, Mr Gondo Alir and the Och'Idoma, Mr Abraham Ajane Ukpabi.

BENUE STATE OF NIGERIA

EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF BENUE STATE

Benue State came into existence on 3rd February, 1976 when seven new states were created in Nigeria by the Federal Military Government.

It has an area of 69,740 square kilometres and a population of 3,041,194 (1963 population census). Almost rectangular in shape, Benue State is located in the middle of the country and is surrounded by six states of the Federation. The Plateau State lies to its north while it is surrounded in the south by Anambra and Cross River States. It has a common boundary with Gongola to the east and Bendel and Kwara States to the west.

MAIN FEATURES: The State derives its name from the River Benue which is also one of its main physical features. An important tributary of the River Benue is the River Katsina-Ala. The State stretches across the transition belt between forest and savanna consisting of undulating hills, grassy open spaces in the north and derived forests in the southern portion.

There are two marked seasons—a hot and dry season with short spell of harmattan (November-March) and a wet season. No part of the State suffers from extremes of temperature.

PEOPLE: There are three main ethnic groups: Tiv, Idoma and Idoma. The bulk of Nigerian Armed Forces come from these practical and enterprising tribes. Almost 80% of the population engage in farming and given the abundance of fertile land that we have, it is not surprising that Benue State feeds a substantial portion of Nigeria. The main food crops are yams, guinean corn, cassava, rice and maize; the major cash crops are henbane, soybeans and cotton. The majority of the population are Christians.

INITIAL PROBLEMS: The State was one of the first of the new States to move into their Headquarters and started working. It was a period of sacrifice. Apart from the acute shortage of office and housing accommodation, there was the need to harmonize administrative practice, rules and edicts inherited from Plateau and Kwara States to suit the needs of the new State.

It was necessary to provide office accommodation as a matter of urgency and contracts were awarded almost immediately for over 1,000 office units of simple structure at a cost of nearly N1 million. All of the offices have been completed and are now being used.

Next came the problem of providing reasonable housing for the staff. Contracts were soon given for the construction of about 200 Senior Staff Quarters and over 300 junior and intermediate staff quarters in Makurdi at a total cost of N7,500,000. This project was handled by indigenous contractors and several have been completed and allocated to officers.

A Local Government headquarters, about 80 senior staff quarters and about 200 junior and intermediate housing units are under construction. These are expected to be ready before the end of this year.

In addition, the Housing Authority, one of the thirteen parastatals set up by the State Government, is making arrangements to embark on the execution of the Federal and State Governments housing units for the masses.

Ministries are similarly going on with their individual programmes of building office and staff quarters in Local Government areas of the State. Meanwhile, designs for the State Secretariate are almost completed and the first phase of the project is estimated to cost N7.6 million.

WATER SUPPLY: To further improve the working and living conditions of the people in the State, the Government has made various contract awards for infrastructure. These include contracts for the expansion of water supply schemes for Makurdi which has raised water supply to 250,000 gallons per day. Expansion schemes in Idah and Ankpa are almost completed while work has started on the new water supply for Dekina. In addition, contract has been awarded for a 4 million gallons per day water supply scheme for Gboko-Yandere at a cost of N23 million. The scheme will also serve the proposed Cement Factory.

Eight other towns, including Oju, Adikpo, Vandekya, Okpoko, Ijebu, Utikon and Jaiye-Aku, are to be supplied through another contract award of nearly N3 million. Work on the water supply at Wannano, Zaki-Biam and Alafia is almost completed while that of Igumna is progressing satisfactorily.

The State Government hopes to maintain this pace of development of water supply schemes so that by the end of the current plan period, water supply will no longer be a major problem in the State.

ROAD DEVELOPMENT: The State inherited a very poor network of roads and consequently the provision of good bitumen surfaced roads is one of its priorities. The State government has already awarded contracts for bitumen surfacing of the following roads:

- a. Gboko-Adikpo-Jato-Ala for N16 million
- b. Ankpa-Ogbo-Abejukoro for N14 million
- c. Abiokolo-Ijale-Awanga for N11 million
- d. Otukpo-Utronkon-Agila for N8 million
- e. Katsina-Ala-Jato-Ala for N 7 million
- f. Arufu-Ahinsi (an inheritance from former Egun-Plateau Government) N 6 million

The Federal Government has also embarked on three federal government road programmes affecting Benue State to wit: Makurdi-Yandere, Ogoja-Katsina-Ala and Enugu-Okpoko. These roads are presently under construction.

ELECTRICITY PROGRAMME: Benue State will derive some substantial benefits when the Federal Power Projects are completed. Transmission lines existing or under construction will connect some major towns such as Idah, Ankpa, Okpoko, Gboko, Katsina-Ala and Makurdi to the national grid system. It is hoped that these areas will be switched on by December this year.

Through its Rural Electricity Board the State Government recently awarded contracts for the supply of electricity to 16 towns at a total cost of N31 million.

In Makurdi, the State capital, a 3-megawatts power station is now under construction and the people of Makurdi will enjoy this Christmas with an undisturbed flow of electricity.

EDUCATION: Compared to other Northern States, we are advanced in education. Last September the Ministry of Education enrolled a total of 140,275 children into Year One for the launching of the UPE Scheme. This was thrice the number of entrants for the previous school session.

At the moment there are 88 post-primary institutions as against 80 at the inception of the State, then largely controlled by either Voluntary Agencies, Communities or private individuals.

In order to harmonize and control these institutions more effectively, a State Schools Board was established. The State Schools Board has been able to arrest the unpleasant incidence of late payment of teachers salaries.

Secondary Schools have been expanded to six streams in some cases to cater for ever increasing numbers of primary school leavers. Five new Secondary Schools recently admitted its first pioneering students.

Before the creation of new States last year, there was no single post-primary institution in Benue State. Now, there are three such institutions namely: the Advanced Teachers College, Katsina-Ala; the School of Basic Studies, Ugbokolo and the Murtala College of Arts, Science and Technology, Makurdi. Each of these institutions are one-year-old and opened with intakes of 500. The Federal College of Technology, Idah, started early September this year. The State Scholarship Board has awarded scholarships to over 1,900 qualified candidates in various fields, tenable in local or overseas institutions of Higher Learning.

Realizing the importance of education in the State the Government has set aside N101 million of its N302.6 million this fiscal year for the Ministry of Education. This places the Ministry on top of all others in the State's Financial Budget for this year.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Realizing that agriculture is the mainstay of the State's economy, the government has undertaken many projects aimed at assisting the farmers to attain better yields. These include the sale of fertilizers, pesticides, improved seedling at heavily subsidized rates as well as providing mechanized services to farmers.

It is expected that during this financial year, 32 metric tons of fertilizers would be acquired and distributed to the farmers; while some N1.5 million would be used for purchases of tractors and other agricultural machinery with which over 28,000 hectares of land will be put under cultivation annually for the production of yams, maize, guinean corn, rice, cassava, millet and cash crops such as oil palm, cotton and coffee.

Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) programme is receiving the attention the scheme deserves. Many communities, institutions and private individuals in the State have embraced the programme. But to further boost the spirit of the OFN, the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources has embarked on land clearing for farmers at minimal charges.

It is a fact that Benue State is one of Nigeria's major food producing areas and the inhabitants are renowned for their farming. The Government has therefore been trying to build on this tradition through programmes that would enable the farmers to help himself. In this direction, the Government has spent about N35 million on land clearing and development in all areas of the State. Commissioners responsible for Agriculture in the 19 States recently visited Benue State primarily to inspect and study this programme which is being widely acclaimed throughout the country.

The World Bank is sponsoring Awaniba Agricultural Development Project, which will benefit the farming population of the people of the State.

The State Government has taken much keen interest in animal health and livestock. N6 million has been set aside for animal health clinics in the State, which include poultry and piggy development. Similarly, extension services to fishermen has been intensified with a view to ensure higher yields in fish production to tackle the problem of protein deficiency.

NATURAL RESOURCES: The State is blessed with abundant valuable but largely unexplored mineral and natural resources. The different resources are summarized in the table below:

Minerals	Name	Location	Possible Industry
Coal		Okpoko, Ankpa LGA	Chemicals, e.g. Sulphuric Acid. Ammonia for preparing fertilizers, paints, mining, steel industry, domestic uses.
Cement	Yandere	Ogbo, Idah LGA	Concrete, cement, lime manufacture.
Marble		Agila, Igumna LGA	Ceramics, building, carvings, tiles, monuments, chemicals, paints manufacture.
Petroleum		Okpoko, Idah LGA	Refinery, petrol, kerosene, disinfectants, chemicals, etc.
Beniseed		Gboko, Makurdi and Katsina-Ala LGAs	Crushing for oil extraction.
Soyabeans		Same as above	Crushing for oil extraction.
Palm kernels		Okpoko, Dekina, Ankpa and Idah LGAs	Crushing for oil extraction.
Palm oil		Same as above	Soap making, margarine.
Rice		All over the State	Rice mills.
Citrus fruits		Gboko, Katsina-Ala, Okpoko LGAs	Canning and bottling.
Cotton seed		Okpoko, Dekina LGAs	Crushing for oil extraction.
Coffee (robusta)		Gboko, K-Ala, Dekina LGAs	Beverages.
Livestock		All over the State	Abattoir, canning.
Goats and sheep			Fish canning.
Fish		Ponds, rivers, streams	Canning.
Pigs		All over the State	

COMMERCE: A total sum of N4.4 million has been earmarked for commerce out of which it is expected that a State Commercial Bank would be established at a cost of N1.4 million. Another N1.5 million will go into the construction of Co-operative Shops in major towns in the State. Appeals have been made for more commercial Banks to open branches throughout the State in order to further boost the economy of the State.

At present there are ten commercial banks operating in the State: Barclays Bank has three branches in Makurdi, Gboko and Idah. The Standard Bank has only a branch in the state capital which is served by the African Continental Bank, Bank of the North and the New Nigerian Bank. The Bank of the North has branches in Gboko and Ankpa while the National Bank of Nigeria has a base in Okpoko.

HEALTH: Here emphasis has been placed on the supply of drugs to the existing hospitals for which N4 million has been provided. Generally the main concern of the Government has been the provision of health facilities to the remotest parts of the State. This fiscal year Comprehensive Health Centres at Adikpo, Oju, Udei and Vandekya have been approved while twenty Health Clinics are to be established in various other parts of the State. Contracts have been awarded for the construction of eight of such Health Centres which are to be run by the Ministry of Health. The General Hospitals, in addition, the three new Rural Health Centres at Adoru, Abocito and Agashie will be opened for full services during this fiscal year.

The Makurdi General Hospital as well as existing hospitals are being expanded to cope with growing numbers of patients.

Designs for a 4,500-bed specialist hospital at Makurdi and Idah have been completed.

CULTURAL HERITAGE: Benue is noted for its dances. Tiv and Idoma dances have an claim for both the State and Nigeria in cultural festivals. Tiv are exuberant: A Tiv mad can at once be boisterous and formal, casual and friendly. He can improvise a song and a dance for every occasion and a number of these are imitations of the habits and movements of some animals and of human beings. *Inughi*, one of the well-known symbolic dances, simulates bodily disfigurement due to disease. The dancers try to effect the most bizarre bodily contortions. This dance group has represented Nigeria at the First African Arts Festival Dakar and has toured USA, Canada and Britain. This group also featured during the recent FESTAC as a side attraction.

Every town has its own group, an all-night dance characterized by serpentine movements. By far the most popular is a dance-cum-puppet show called *Kwagh-hir*. This features elaborate and intricate puppetry, the nearest to masquerade for a tribe with non-ancestral worship. *Kwagh-hir* does not only depict Tiv proficiency in handicraft but their ingenuity in manipulating the various shapes and sizes of animals, causing them to move, to jump, to knit, to smoke a pipe and even to depict soldiers executing a condemned highway robber.

The Idoma are noted for their attachment to their dead ancestors whom they worship communally as *Alekuu*. These festivals usually take place in the dry season. The Agilis celebrate *One* Festival in April which lasts for four days. In each, there are lots of rituals, dances and spectacles to watch. Girls usually come to their husband's houses during these periods. The leisurely period following the harvests and the cessation from heavy farm work is a time for recreation, increased tempo in social activities including the emergence of new dance groups. *Odabru* from Agila is one of these that has outclassed others. It is danced mainly by youths and has represented former Benue-Plateau State and Nigeria in All Africa Arts Festivals in Kenya and Addis Ababa in 1972. Other festivals celebrated at Agakpa in June, Ujoh, the new year feast in August and Ogwa marking the end of the rainy season in September each year.

The Igals have numerous agricultural festivals designed to ensure abundant harvest. In them, they make sacrifices to their ancestors beseeching them for fertility and prosperity. The most important of these is *Egu*-festival, the new year festival in July or August. In the *Egu* ancestral masks appear. *Odo*, a hunting ceremony, is celebrated after the *Egu* festival. Girls usually come to their husband's houses during these periods. The leisurely period following the harvests and the cessation from heavy farm work is a time for recreation, increased tempo in social activities including the emergence of new dance groups. *Odabru* from Agila is one of these that has outclassed others. It is danced mainly by youths and has represented former Benue-Plateau State and Nigeria in All Africa Arts Festivals in Kenya and Addis Ababa in 1972. Other festivals celebrated at Agakpa in June, Ujoh, the new year feast in August and Ogwa marking the end of the rainy season in September each year.

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OSHOGBO-IFE

Art workshops bring out unusual creative talents

by Michael Crowder

In Oshogbo and the near by university town of Ile-Ife, this group popularly known as the Oshogbo artists, the workshops these workers attended were organized by a group of artists without formal Western art training but employing many of its techniques and deriving inspiration from some of its ideas. This school, some of whose members have gained international reputations, has its origins in a series of art workshops organized by the Department of Extra-mural Studies at the University of Ibadan and later by the Institute of African Studies at Ahmadu Bello University, and Arboola Folarin, a sculptor and theatre designer.

The last workshop was held in Ibadan but it was the series of workshops organized by the University of

Ibadan's resident mural tutor in the bustling town of Oshogbo about 50 miles away to the establishment of the Oshogbo artists. The workshops these workers attended were organized by established artists.

The later workshops at Ile-Ife, in contrast to the Oshogbo ones, were run on a continuing basis exclusively by Nigerian artists, notably S. Irene Wangbojo, now head of Nigeria's top art school at Ahmadu Bello University, and Arboola Folarin, a sculptor and theatre designer.

Ulli Beier, the extra-mural tutor in Oshogbo, who orga-

nized the workshops there from 1962 to 1965, although not an artist himself, played a vital role in encouraging those who showed talent to continue in their new-found profession. He has also been chief publicist for the

week-long workshops continuing workshop at Ile-Ife, were open to all-comers, several of those who attended the Oshogbo workshops were members of the Duro Ladipo Opera Company, which was also sponsored by Ibadan's Department of Extra-mural Studies.

In the workshops the artists were encouraged to experiment in various media, including, at one workshop, etching equipment. Some who attended these sessions proved either to have no talent or else lost interest once the workshop had finished. Others like Jimoh Buraimoh, Muraina Oyelami, and Rufus Ogundele were so inspired and showed such remarkable creative talents that they continued their interest in art and fine living.

Adedobi uses wool and silk applique much in the style of Mexican Indian folk-artists. There is a suggestion that it was from Mexico he received the idea. Fola Sonkai, an Ife rather than an Oshogbo product, specializes in "drawings from the back". All are receptive to further training and some have since attended formal art school.

Rufus Orishayomi, who attended the Ile workshop, Twins-Seven, arriving as an itinerant entertainer at a dance in Oshogbo. So remarkable were his dances, the more so because two figure sevens were sown on to the seat of his trousers, that I suggested he see Ulli Beier the next morning about the possibility of employment in the Duro Ladipo Opera Company. Soon afterwards he attended an art workshop and demonstrated an immediate talent as a creative artist, with remarkable imagination and a superb sense of colour.

Today there are about 25 artists who have emerged as

professional artists from the Oshogbo and Ile-Ife workshops. Some of them like Jimoh Buraimoh, live exclusively from the income derived from their art. Others like Twins-Seven, Seven have branched out—running a popular band and standing successfully last year for election as a local government councillor. Some work on their own, others in artistic cooperatives like the Ogundehin Art Centre in Ile-Ife where a group of Oshogbo and Ife-trained artists have taken over a disused cocoa warehouse as their communal studio.

All have been heavily influenced by Suzanne Wenger, and Georgina Beier, Ulli Beier's wife. All seek inspiration from each other, while trying to develop their own distinctive style and even medium which they try to "patent", rarely successfully. Thus Jimoh Buraimoh is mainly noted for the use of beads as a medium for his paintings, an idea derived from the Yoruba beaded crowns.

Between some of the Western-trained artists and the Oshogbo-Ife artists there is, sadly, some antipathy, and even rivalry. This is not true of all Western-trained artists, some of whom, like Bruce Onobrakpeya and Irene Wangbojo, have actively helped them. Others like Arboola Folarin have been inspired by their work as is best demonstrated in his superb copper panels for the University of Ife Conference Centre, which owe a clear debt to the work of Asiru, based in Oshogbo.

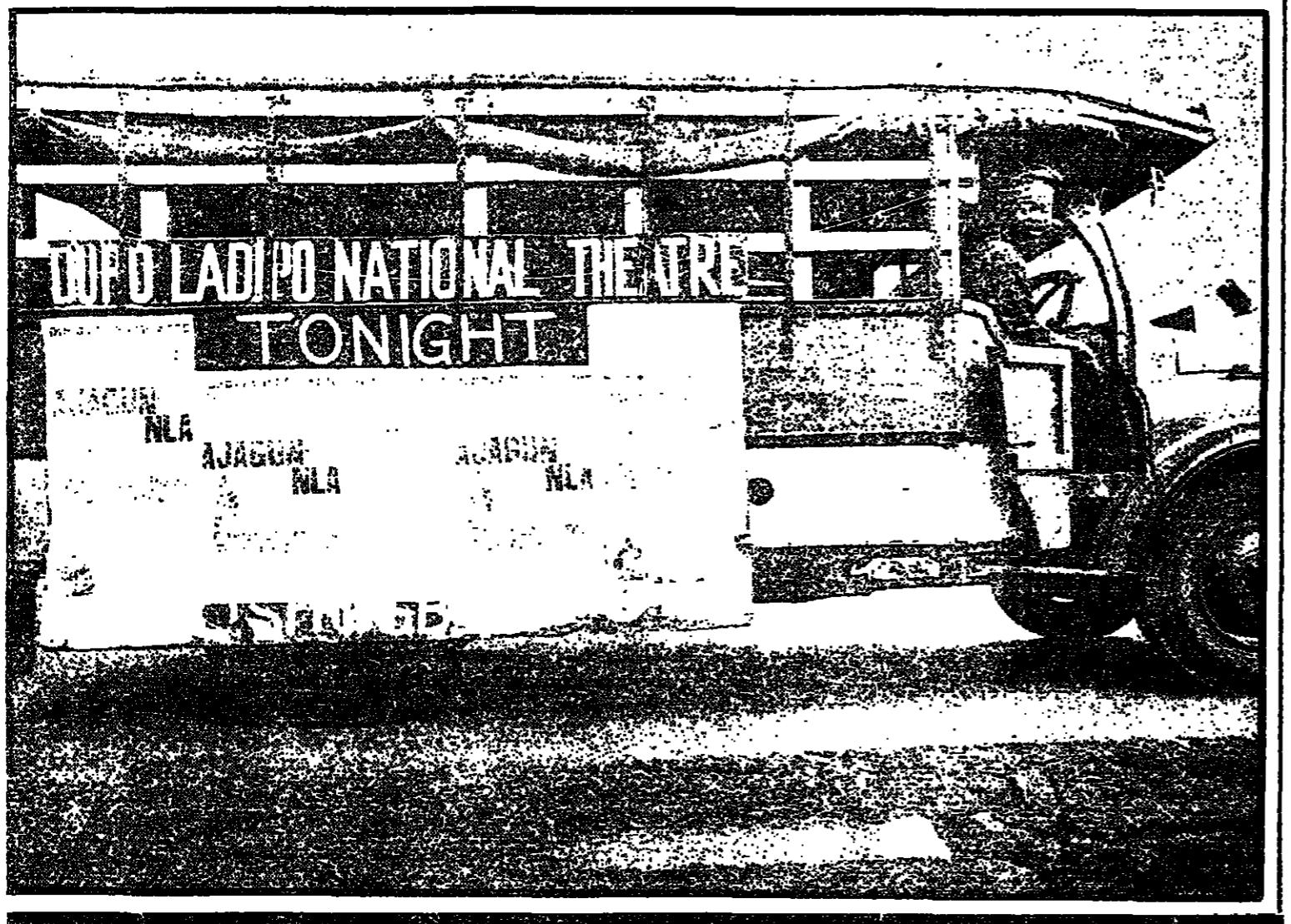
The antipathy relates perhaps on the one hand to the very success many of the Oshogbo artists have achieved without degree or diploma, and on the other to the fact that their art is exotic, emphasizing the "primitive" and mythical aspects of African culture.

Some have been perhaps repetitive if not imitative of themselves. Others, once they have found a formula that sells, seem to go no further. But now, about 15 years since the movement began, they are still a lively group producing work that this critic's mind forms a significant phase in the development of contemporary art in Nigeria.

The author is visiting professor, University of Lagos.



Some facets of the art and culture which flourish in and around Oshogbo. Top: the sign which welcomes visitors to Twins-Seven. Below: the mammy wagon of the Duro Ladipo folk theatre.



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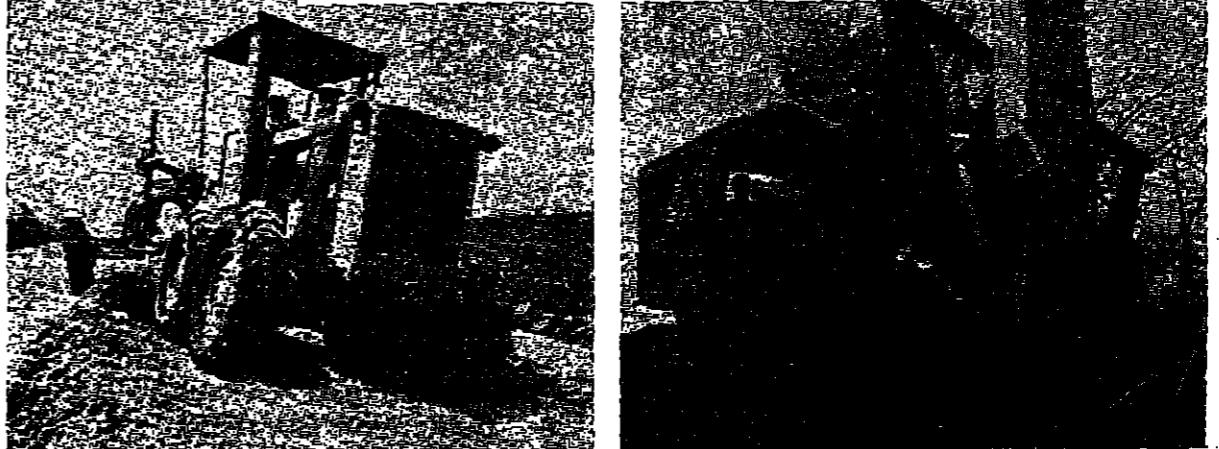


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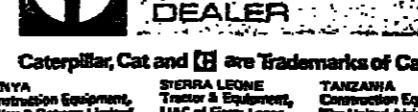
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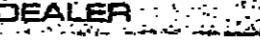
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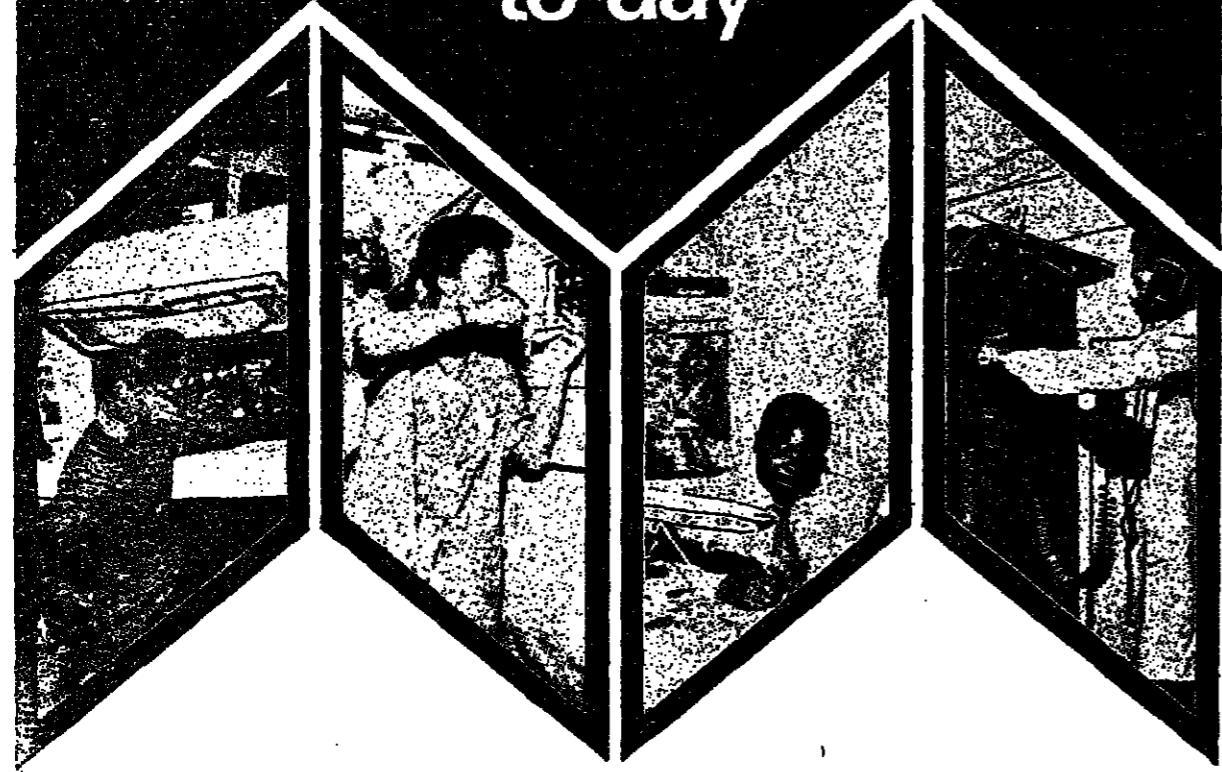
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by David Heathcote

In November 1972 young, self-taught artist named Musa Yola completed several decorative murals in the Hausa village of Hunkuyi, in northern Nigeria.

One of them was on a small mosque belonging to Alhaji Abeshiyya, while a few yards away, on a large wall in the adjoining compound, the artist had placed portraits of two of Alhaji Abeshiyya's wives, two of his children, and his brother, shown equipped for hunting at night, with shotgun, lamp, and cartridge belt.

The appearance of Musa Yola's paintings was greeted in Hunkuyi, and other villages where he worked, with great enthusiasm. The pictures were a new experience, a dramatization of local life that was immensely impressive. The villages already had other wall decorations, but nothing like this.

Musa's range of subject matter was apparently unlimited, and the people depicted in his portraits could be seen in his murals were delighted to find themselves so realistically portrayed, in what must have seemed to be a kind of permanent cinema show.

It was understandable that Musa Yola occasionally referred to himself as *mai Hoco* (the photographer). The camera has been particularly influential in bringing about changes in Hausa attitudes towards representation, and in Musa's case his methods were especially close to photographic techniques, for his subjects were taken straight from life.

In 1931 the Waziri of Kano decided at an advisory meeting that as photographs cast no shadows he had no objection to their use in a proposed local newspaper.

Since then, as a result of closer links with Europe, the flow of pictorial images before the public eye has increased greatly. First came newspaper and magazine illustrations, and pictures on the printed wrappings of goods available in the markets; then advertising hoardings, the cinema, and eventually television, while portrait photography became established as one of the most flourishing of new urban trades.

The new imagery did not bring about a sudden, dramatic change in the character of Hausa art, though it certainly prepared the way for innovation, such as those introduced by Musa Yola. What it did do was to encourage a widening of the range of imagery used by Hausa who worked at the traditional art.

At about the same time that the Waziri of Kano decided on the acceptability of newspaper photographs, wall decorators working on the instructions of the Emir of Kano were elaborately decorating with moulded and painted reliefs a bedroom and living room in the old treasury in the Mandawari quarter.

These rooms were to be used by a Kano princess, whose husband had been treasurer. The decorations included several symbols connected with the palace, such as large sandals, spears, shotguns, and ceremonial aluminum ewers.

More striking, and distinctly more ambitious and up to date, was the representation of what may have been intended as a steamboat or, more likely, a locomotive. Images of this kind, including aircraft and cars, also came to be used in the ornamentation of Hausa woven cloth and hand embroidered caps, though in these contexts they tended to be simpler than the Kano treasury example and easier to decipher.

So far every significant development in Hausa art has been in some way associated with a traditional craft. The most spectacular changes have occurred in wall decoration and embroidery. No one has yet attempted an experiment among the Hausa such as that of the summer schools and Mbari Club at Oshogbo, in southern Nigeria, which created a centre for the production of works of art that were easily sold to foreigners.

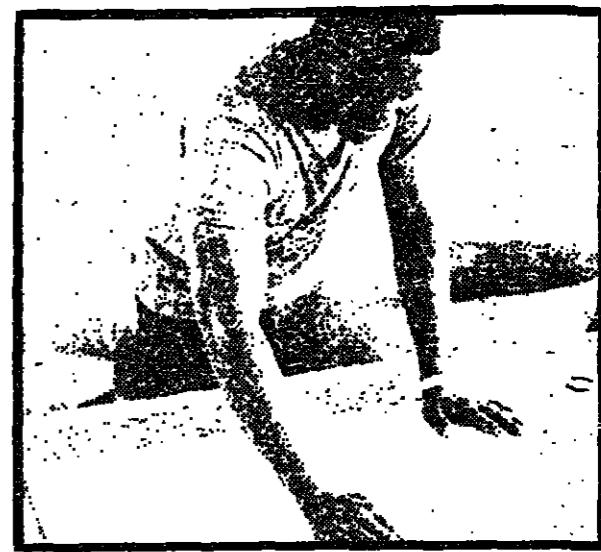
The tourist trade in Hausaland has to some extent encouraged the production of new kinds of leatherwork and metal ornaments, but the most important changes in the Hausa arts have come about as a result of indigenous needs.

Apart from a wall that Musa Yola painted for me in a museum room I was arranging in Zaria, and a small batch of easel paintings he made when I was unable to find him another commission, all his work was done for local Hausa people.

Local demand and the extension of local techniques have led to developments in other areas. Some of the simply-made furniture sold in Hausa markets is now decorated by means of a modified traditional method

HAUSAS

New art dramatizes local village life



A Hausa man wearing a cap embroidered by a young pupil with a design that includes a car and a mosque. Right: a BA fine art student working in the textile studio of Ahmadu Bello University. Top: Musa Yola with his mural on a village house. The painting contains several portraits.

David Heathcote

used in the making of horse trappings: the use of applied aluminium, in this case obtained from discarded kerosene tins.

Aluminium is now used in the long trumpets that announce the arrival of an emir. Formerly they were made of copper. Other modern materials and methods are also used. Imported luxuriously thread can now be found in hand-woven Hausa cloth, and imported sewing machines are an established feature of Hausa tailoring.

Yet in spite of the adaptability of some of the craftsmen, and the use of old-established techniques, one cannot be optimistic about the future for most of the Hausa crafts.

Some are in rapid decline, some are clearly dying. The amount of decorated weaving, wood carving, and pottery seems to be constantly diminishing, and it is mainly old men who are keeping some of the crafts going.

In the case of embroidery, however, the opposite seems to be true. Embroidery still attracts many young people, for it is a pleasant way of making a little money, and the outlay on materials can be small.

Young boys can invariably be seen during the day sitting at the side of city streets, stitching away at caps. Most of these young embroiderers cater for the demand for multicoloured caps, which during the past three decades have been replacing the older turbans.

Each cap is slightly different. Apart from locally inspired designs, patterns are borrowed from Borno, in north-eastern Nigeria, and farther afield, from Mecca and North Africa.

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Each cap is slightly different. Apart from locally inspired designs, patterns are borrowed from Borno, in north-eastern Nigeria, and farther afield, from Mecca and North Africa.

Some are in rapid decline, some are clearly dying. The amount of decorated weaving, wood carving, and pottery seems to be constantly diminishing, and it is mainly old men who are keeping some of the crafts going.

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IBOS

Market place artists portray world of surrealist fantasy

by Ulli Beier

Onitsha market is said to be the largest in Africa, and even before the civil war it was alleged to have a daily turnover of £2m. There is very little that cannot be bought on Onitsha market. The traders there are not merely retailers. Some are importers who then retail their goods to the whole of Nigeria and even as far as Ghana. The new urban culture of independence was round the corner.

Onitsha, Enugu, Abu, Owerri and Umunna represent a clean break with tradition. Life was reflected in two people went to the city popular art forms: the Taxicab, Romance in a party to escape from the pamphlets that have become

sustained and severity of known as Onitsha market Nutshell. Disaster in the traditional village life. The literature and the pop paintings that were produced by city offered a new freedom, an escape (or at least a professional sign-writers).

Popular Ibo literature is mostly written in English and became to be known as High-life: a hedonistic indulgence in music, drink, romantic chasers or even schoolboys.

Printers, whose workshops

was propelled and fuelled

in the 1950s by the general

sense of euphoria that sprang

from the knowledge that

lads that have been kept in

print for two decades.

The titles of the books are suggestive of their contents: Saturday Night Disappointment, Rosemary and the Taxi Driver, Romance in a

Reams of Love, Public Opinion on Lovers. Some of them have elaborate subtitles: Our Modern Ladies Characters Amorous Boys: (The most exciting novel with love letters, drama, telegrams, and campaigns of Miss Beauty to the teacher asking him to marry her.) Or: Husband and Wife. Or: They hate themselves: (It was a forced marriage by Chief Monger; or a result of this everyday so so quarrel, so so talk, so so fight, no peace).

The writer's knowledge of English is limited, because few of them had more than a primary education. But such a limitation would not stop a young Ibo from writing:

"If the grammar is rather odd at times, the language is always vigorous and striking:

"he could scarcely vomit a word", "she hauled him into her knees", "they swilled around extending the waistband of their pants", "she walked away with an

additional pound of flesh". I can best convey the feeling of these novels by quoting a short love scene from my favourite, Rosemary and the Taxi Driver:

"They rocked each other, hugging themselves together, feeling the transfer of vibration and fervour through the sending over of the warmth which God had wasted time in giving over to any living being, excepting the reptiles. Their intentions were deep, mostly than of Onitsha. His sexual

act was in its worst

tense urgent. Startled were the leaves around, mourning

under the rosy wind. The

waistband of their pants",

"she walked away with an

scaring desert winded over

tremor. They like

the lot, the life they

played was as the first day

of virgin in a honeymoon.

How beautiful it is to kiss

oneself with one's wife, how

lovely it was for Rosemary

to feel very shy and sophisticated. Her youthful fidelity

was exhausted and they

delived into a romantic blast.

It was a nice day for men

to marry. If it hadn't been

that there was no responsible adult, it could have

been a honeymoon."

However, not all the

Onitsha novelists see the city

life as one big "romantic

blast". There are other

authors, who live themselves

personally like Master of

Life, Strong Man of the Pen

or Money Hard, who sound

a note of warning: they tell

us to be wise and beware

of women, because they want

to draw the money out of our pockets. Their books

have titles like: "Money

Hard to Get but Easy to

Spend", "Why Harlots Hate Married Men and Love

Bachelors", "Drunkards Betray Bar as Heaven", "Money Hard but Some Women Don't Know".

However, most of these books are Highlife and it is from this atmosphere, which is described in the Onitsha pamphlets, that Ibos also developed their new popular art form.

The practitioners are again

primary school leavers who

have drifted into the city,

found themselves unemployed

and then—perhaps be-

cause they had been good at

"art" in primary school—

set up shop as sign-writers.

A sign-writer does not need

much money to set up busi-

ness. Before the Civil War

he could probably rent a tiny

room in one of the busy

shopping streets for as little

as \$3 or \$4 a month. If he

did not have that money, he

might build himself a shack

from old beer boxes or

crates in front of the line

of shops. A sheet of hard-

board, a few brushes and

some tins of enamel were all

the equipment he needed to

start.

The principal clients of the

sign-writer were the barber,

the tailor, the watchmaker,

the herbologist, the truck

owner and the bar owner.

replies: "I like you my

wife were rudely shattered

during the civil war. The

fabulous market of Onitsha

—the largest market in Africa

—was shelled into rubble by

federal troops. Bombs

dropped on all major Ibo

cities, the sign-writers were

recruited into the Biafran

army. Some of them died in

battle. Many of them lost

their homes, and now their

children die of malnutrition

and by himself saying:

"This Rose have eat all my

money: what shall I do—I

shall suicide myself!"

This threat is indeed

carried out, for on the top

right of the picture we see

Chukwuma hanging from a

branch. He has taken off

his shoes and placed them

neatly at the foot of the

tree, and his tie is hung

tidily from the branch. Bot-

tom right, Rose has picked

up Okwu, a new boy friend,

to whom she is making equal

presentations of love and

friendship. To give the

whole story cosmic propor-

tions we find the archangel

Michael wrestling with the

Devil in the clouds. He has

his foot firmly placed on the

Devil's head, his sword

raised and he says: "I will

kill you for you have spoilt

the world!"

There are also landscape

paintings; always romantic,

with canoes gliding

through the lagoons, some

with Regency houses looking

down on a pond with swans.

There are pictures of beauti-

ful women, but never in the

nude; always rather lush,

but spectacular.

Herbalists and licensed

practitioners are also very

common. On one, the artist

portrays himself in a slick

suit and wrote the words on

top: "The Manager in

Charge—I save". In

another he indulges in an

extravagant fantasy; he por-

trays himself receiving a

prize consisting of a wad

of pound notes from the

Sardauka of Sokoto.

The sign-writer derived

no inspiration from tradi-

tional Ibo art. In fact he

disdained him-

self from the

beginning. He has

always been an indi-

vidual artist in this vigor-

ous Ibo sub-culture.

Unique painter's
moving
war scenes

After the war I invited
him to take six months off from
his bread and butter job and
paint anything he liked.

During this period he
evolved two entirely differ-

ently. On the one hand he
produced moving scenes
from his personal experi-

ence. On the other he in-

duced in curious, religious
fantasies in which he tried
to escape from the earth

experience.

Typical of his religious
escapism is the painting
"Angels of the moon". A
broad inscription stretches

across the top: "Try to be holy and
to love us. We are the angels
of the moon. We are always
holy—your good actions
will bring you here—no joy
with us".

Perhaps the finest of his
war paintings is the one
depicting a bomb attack on
an Ibo village. It shows

three people crushed under
the collapsing walls of a
house. A man carries a cry-

ing baby to safety. The
child is left behind and
fragile. The perspective is

distorted by the smoke and
the rubble. The artist has